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LD0711134888 [Editorial Report]

Afghanistan

Suspension of Troop Withdrawal—The Soviet troop withdrawal was suspended in accordance with a joint Afghan-Soviet understanding, Kabul radio stated 5 November. The radio noted that the decision is in line with the supply of "new and advanced weapons" to the Afghan Armed Forces in view of the present "unbearable" situation.

The decision to suspend the withdrawal was announced in Moscow the previous day by Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, who told journalists that the Soviet forces will be pulled out under "suitable conditions," but that present conditions do not allow their normal withdrawal, according to TASS. He also noted that some Soviet forces are being replaced with units that have more modern equipment.

The Soviet decision was criticized by Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who said it casts "doubts and suspicions" on the pledges made by the Soviet Union under the Geneva Accords, Islamabad radio noted.

Military Developments—Afghan Government forces fired three Scuds at mujahidin targets in Konarha Province over the weekend, Islamabad radio reported, adding the missiles failed to cause casualties. Earlier missile strikes in Nangarhar Province failed to hit rebel bases, according to resistance sources cited by AFP.

Scuds were also fired at mujahidin targets near Qandahar 3 November in an attempt to end the siege of the city, Islamabad radio disclosed. Mujahidin sources revealed that fresh Soviet forces were dispatched to Qandahar recently, AFP noted.

The mujahidin responded with another rocket attack on the capital 6 November. According to BAKHTAR, three people were killed and six wounded by the rockets, which hit areas near the FRG and Japanese Embassies. Earlier BAKHTAR reports claimed Afghan troops killed 450 "extremists" during fighting throughout the country the previous week, indicating the highest number of rebel casualties was in the Qandahar area.

Kabul radio stated that 30 civilians were killed near Qandahar when a rocket fired by the "extremists" hit a bus heading for the city.

Israel

Coalition Prospects—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office announced 5 November that if the Alignment were to approach him, Shamir would be willing to discuss the possibility of including the Alignment in a broad-based coalition, Jerusalem radio reported.

The move followed Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that he does "not rule out the establishment of a broad-based government" because the formation of a "right-wing religious coalition" would have "very serious" consequences.

Speaking in an interview with Jerusalem television, Rabin also criticized Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' assessment that the Alignment lost seats as a result of the Jericho bus bombing, stating that "instead of looking for an alibi in the Jericho tragedy," the Alignment should conduct a proper review of the outcome of the election.

Discussing the policies he will adopt if he succeeds in forming a government without the Alignment, Shamir disclosed to Jerusalem radio that he intends to promote the establishment of several new settlements, though budgetary problems will continue to constrain the settlement drive.

Regarding the allocation of portfolios, Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon told IDF radio that he should be appointed defense minister because he has the "moral obligation" to undertake this "thankless" job at a time when the security situation is "deteriorating daily" and Israel is at risk because of the "erosion" in its deterrent capability.

If appointed, Sharon added, he will give soldiers greater freedom of action against rioters and will seek to ensure that "leaders of the riots and terrorism" in the territories "cease operating."

Territories—The IDF is checking a report that one Arab youth was killed and four were wounded during clashes with the IDF in a village near Nabulus 6 November, Jerusalem radio noted. Four Gazans were wounded the same day when riots were dispersed by security forces, IDF radio disclosed. Jerusalem radio reported that 12 Arabs were injured during clashes with the IDF 4-5 November.

Israeli Military Intentions—WAKH cited a report by the UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD claiming Israeli leaders have been considering a plan to attack a Syrian chemical plant under construction near Damascus. Israeli leaders are "determined" to raid the plant soon despite a U.S. request to refrain from such action, the paper contended. Another Arab publication, ARAB WORLD, reported that Israel recently constructed a surface-to-surface missile base on the Golan Heights, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Lebanon

Military Developments—Israeli aircraft attacked and destroyed a "terrorist base" in the Sidon area 6 November, Jerusalem radio announced. A local police report cited by AFP stated that the raid destroyed a toy shop in northeast Sidon and injured two Lebanese civilians. Abu Nidal's organization, Fatah-the Revolutionary Council, denied reports that one of its positions was hit in the raid, AFP noted.

In another development, Jerusalem radio reported that three "terrorists" were killed in a 6 November clash with South Lebanese Army soldiers in the western sector of the security zone. The pro-Syrian Al-Sa'iqah organization claimed responsibility for the "martyrdom operation" near Al-Naqurah in a statement cited by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio.

Hostages—The Islamic Jihad Organization, in a statement to AL-NAHAR, accused the United States of attempting to make deals on the hostages, despite the "lies" of the U.S. Administration. The statement warned that the issue of the hostages is unrelated to events in the Gulf, adding that the only way to secure their release is to meet "our just demands."

In a separate move, Fatah-the Revolutionary Council stated it has taken "positive steps" that could lead to the release of two French children who are among a group of people captured aboard a yacht in the Mediterranean in November 1987, according to AFP.

PLO Affairs

PLO leadership meetings are under way in Tunis in preparation for the 12 November PNC session, APS reported, noting that there are still some "unsettled discrepancies" concerning the political statement to be issued. In a statement cited by WAKH, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf denied that the meetings in Tunis are plagued by "substantial factional differences."

Jordan

A package of economic reforms adopted by the Council of Ministers includes a ban on the import of cars and a wide range of household goods, higher tariffs on luxury items, an increased airport departure tax, and higher fees on foreign workers' permits, Amman television announced. An AL-DUSTUR commentary praised the reforms, saying they will lead to a decrease in Jordan's hard currency payments.

Gulf Affairs

Saudi Arabia—The French defense minister held a news conference in Riyadh in which he acknowledged the possibility of France building two bases in Saudi Arabia, SPA reported. He also disclosed that the sale of submarines, armored vehicles, and missiles was under discussion. Paris radio, citing a Saudi daily, reported that agreement was reached on supplying new warships and training Saudi naval officers, but no deal was made on the sale of Mirage-4000's.

In other developments, SPA reported that the oil minister responded to foreign press allegations that Saudi Arabia is exceeding its oil output quota, saying the Kingdom will adhere to its quota when all the other OPEC states adhere to theirs.

Qatar—The USSR and Qatar announced in a communique cited by WAKH and TASS that they will soon open embassies in each other's capitals and exchange ambassadors. The communique, which stressed the two sides' "proximity" of views, was issued after the visit of a special Foreign Ministry envoy to Moscow. Moscow Radio's Arabic service described the visit as a "prominent event," adding there are no obstacles to similarly developing relations with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Iran

Peace Talks—UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Iran and Iraq renewed their commitment to uphold the cease-fire during the 5 November talks in Geneva, according to IRNA, which added that talks will continue 7 November under the mediation of special UN representative Jan Eliasson.

Dispatch of Troops—IRGC Commander Mohsen Reza'i affirmed that troops will continue to be dispatched to the fronts as long as Resolution 598 is not fully implemented, IRNA reported. He deemed it "probable" that the enemy will invade again. **Embassy Takeover Marked**—"Millions" of Iranians participated in marches 4 November to mark the 1979 takeover of the U.S. Embassy, Tehran radio reported.

Montazeri Letter—The clandestine Radio of the Iranian Toilers reported that Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri sent a letter to Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi blaming him and his government for the "wretched" state of the country and the paralysis of the economy.

Algeria

President Chadli Bendjedid entrusted the formation of a new government to Kasdi Merba, Algiers radio announced. Merba was health minister in the outgoing government of Abdelhamid Brahimi. Bendjedid summoned Merba 5 November to ask him to establish the new government in conformity with the constitutional provisions approved in the recent referendum, the radio noted. The prime minister-designate told the radio after the meeting that he will hold "broad consultations" on the formation of an administration that will contain "efficient, honest, practical, and successful" ministers.

The consultations will encompass politicians, technocrats, and "possibly some other personalities," he said, adding that the new government must face up to Algeria's economic and social problems. Merba participated in the war of independence, holds the rank of Army colonel, and has held three cabinet posts, the radio noted.

Tunisia

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali marked the anniversary of his accession to power by issuing pardons to a number of persons convicted of "political and criminal charges," Tunis radio noted. The move is in line with Ben Ali's efforts to empty the prisons of political prisoners and enhance national reconciliation, the radio said.

The amnesty affects 41 prisoners jailed in the cases of the Islamic Tendency Movement and the Islamic Jihad, as well as 47 other fundamentalists and lefists who were "denied their freedom." Charges against 70 other people accused of security offenses will be dropped. The pardon also provides for the release of 464 prisoners jailed for criminal offenses, the radio added.

In another development, the president and his government adopted economic measures aimed at giving the economy "more flexibility, effectiveness, and competitiveness," Tunis radio reported. The package includes tax reductions and seeks to stimulate investment and employment, reduce costs, and hold down prices.

Libya

Comment on U.S. Election—In an interview with U.S. television cited by JANA, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi urged the American people to "get rid of the evil and mad Reagan administration" but said he is "amazed" that Governor Dukakis also supports "mad" policies on defense.

Armed Forces—Col al-Qadhdhafi outlined his plans for the future structure of Libya's Armed Forces in a speech carried by Tripoli television 3 November. He envisaged three separate forces: regular forces called the "Jamahiri Guards;" conscripts undergoing a compulsory service period of up to 2 years; and part-time recruits receiving training under the authority of people's defense committees in "defense zones."

Noting that the new structure is aimed at establishing an "armed people," he stressed that no one will be able to evade general military training and that there will be an end to favoritism and corruption.

African Relations—Col al-Qadhdhafi received Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and Ghanaian leader Jerry Rawlings at Surt Airport 6 November, Tripoli television reported. Libya and Senegal reestablished diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level 5 November, according to a joint communique carried by JANA and Dakar radio.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Leaders Continue Tunis Meetings

Chaired by 'Arafat

JN0411173388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] Tunis, 4 Nov (INA)—Palestinian leaders have continued their meetings which began here last night under PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Palestinian sources told an INA correspondent in Tunis that the meetings will be concluded tomorrow after reaching a final agreement on the independence document and the political statement prior to presenting it to the PNC meetings scheduled to be held in Algiers on 12 November. The sources added that the Palestinian leaders are also discussing the conditions of the Palestinian uprising and the PLO's political approaches in light of the results of the recent Zionist elections.

On the other hand, PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab has denied reports by some news media regarding the PLO's readiness to relinquish the idea of holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

In a statement to an INA correspondent here, he said that all the Palestinian factions are unanimous on holding an international conference and that the PLO is committed to the formula approved by the 18th PNC session and the resolutions of the emergency Arab summit in Algiers.

Independence Document Discussed

LD0511181088 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] The 2-day meeting in Tunis of the Palestinian leadership ended last night. It was chaired by the brother leader Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestine Revolution Forces, and was attended by the leaders of the Palestinian revolution factions united in Fatah, by members of the PLO Executive Committee, and by the leadership of the Palestine National Council [PNC].

According to an informed Palestinian source, during the meeting the Palestinian leadership discussed the final drafts of the independence document and the political statement to be issued by the PNC at its extraordinary session which will be held in Algeria on 12 November.

The source added that the Palestinian leadership discussed the forming of a Palestinian transitional government and also discussed reports on the Palestinian mass uprising in the occupied territories and the results of the recent Zionist elections.

The source said the Palestinian leadership also discussed the situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and contacts with various Arab and international bodies.

Meetings Extended

LD0711094888 Algiers APS in Arabic 0915 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Tunis, 7 Nov (APS)—It has been learned from informed Palestinian sources that the meetings of the Palestinian leadership, which have been continuing for several days in Tunis under the chairmanship of Mr Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, will continue until the 10th of this month. The meetings had been expected to conclude within the next few hours at the latest.

The same sources said it is also thought that a final draft of the independence document, based on UN Security Council Resolution 181, has been written, but there are still some unsettled discrepancies about the political statement.

The same sources also denied rumors that the PFLP requested a postponement of the coming extraordinary PNC session.

PLO To Submit 2 Documents to PNC Session

JN0611130088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordan hopes the PLO will maintain its positive course whose initial features are currently evident before crystallizing this course at the PNC. Jordan also hopes the PLO's approaches will not be affected by the results of the Israeli elections which were won by the extremist Likud Party. Our radio has learned this from a responsible Jordanian source. According to the same source, Jordan believes that any hardline reaction by the PLO in light of the Israeli elections outcome will not be in favor of the Palestine question.

On the other hand, Arab diplomatic sources in Amman have pointed out that the Palestinian leadership will submit two documents to the PNC session scheduled for 12 November. The first document is the declaration of independence of a Palestinian Arab state. This state will be a nonaligned, democratic state with religious freedom and multiplicity of parties. This declaration will be based on the political dimension of Resolution No 181 of 1947—a resolution which provides for the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states.

Jordan and Egypt asked the PLO leadership to adopt the geographical dimension of UN Resolution No 242 to define the borders of the Palestinian state because this resolution points to the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, namely, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The second document is the political action document. It defines the PLO's future moves, including the call for holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East and the right of all regional states to live in peace as well as the Palestinian people's right to sovereignty over their Palestinian territory. This document also provides for declaring East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine as well as the way to attain rapprochement with Arab states, including the conception of confederation with Jordan.

Fatah's Khalaf on Struggle 'Escalation Plan'
JN0611131588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Nov (WAKH)— Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, has affirmed that the Palestinian leadership is currently preparing a plan of action to escalate the Palestinian struggle in the occupied territories to face the fascist extremism in the Zionist entity.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN published today, Abu Iyad said this escalation plan, which has a political aspect as well as a military one, is designed to increase military action inside the Zionist entity, develop the daily militant action of the uprising, and proceed with adopting the Palestinian political options represented by announcing the independence declaration and forming a provisional Palestinian Government.

The Palestinian official said the recent Israeli elections lead us to believe Israel will be ruled during the coming 4 years by religious extremists who advocate the transfer of Palestinians outside Palestinian territory and also call for turning the occupied territories into territories free of all except Jewish elements.

Abu Iyad asserted that these new forces, the religious parties, which will probably enter a coalition with the Likud in the new Israeli Government will exert all of their repressive efforts to abort and end the uprising. He stressed the uprising is an irreversible option.

Abu Iyad pointed out that the forthcoming phase will be a difficult one and that it will expose the true face of Israel as a racist country that does not seek peace and that understands nothing other than violence.

The Palestinian official said the Israeli elections have had no political effects or repercussions whatsoever on the Palestinian options that will be announced and approved by the PNC—the options represented by announcing the independence declaration and approving the decision to form a provisional government.

On the meetings currently being held in Tunis by the Palestinian leadership, Abu Iyad said the leadership is currently preparing the final draft of the political program which will be the PLO's political program and according to which the provisional Palestinian Government will operate. He added this government will be formed by the PLO Central Council after it receives the proper authorization to form that government and announce this formation from the PNC's current session which will be held on 12 November.

Salah Khalaf categorically denied that the dialogues currently being held in Tunis are plagued by substantial factional differences. He said the differences in opinion regarding the way UN Security Council Resolution No 242 is drafted is a simple and ordinary issue that will be resolved as soon as possible. He described the dialogue being conducted as one permeated by an eagerness to preserve national interests.

Al-Sa'iqah on Attack on Israeli Positions
JN0711064888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] The pro-Syrian Palestinian Al-Sa'iqah organization has claimed responsibility for an attack by one of its groups comprising three members against forward Israeli forces positions in the security belt in southern Lebanon.

Al-Sa'iqah stated the group killed or wounded several Israeli soldiers and destroyed several Israeli military vehicles.

'Military Commander' on Jericho Bus Attack
LD0311102088 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] The military commander in the Al-Aghwar area has said that the incident [the attack on the bus in Jericho on 30 October] resulted from the throwing of two firebombs, not five. He said that losses were inflicted as a result of a fire on the bus, which completely destroyed it. The Zionist military commander said two soldiers opened fire on the culprits, but he did not specify whether this took place before or after the tossing of the two firebombs. He also did not say whether any of the attackers were shot.

Algeria

Bendjedid Appoints Kasdi Merbah Prime Minister

NC0511120988 Paris AFP in English 1200 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Algiers, Nov 5 (AFP)—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on Saturday appointed Colonel Kasdi Merbah as prime minister and asked him to form a new government, the president's office said here. Col. Merbah had been Minister of Health.

The move came two days after a massive "yes" vote in a national referendum on political reforms put to the Algerian people.

Merbah Discusses Consultations; Biography Given

LD0511194988 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] [Announcer] Kasdi Merbah, commissioned to form a new government, has made a statement in which he gave the first indications of the government which will be formed before the end of the week. He said:

[Begin recording] [Merbah] The president received me this morning and commissioned me, in accordance with the constitution—especially the changes which were approved by the people in the 3 November referendum—to form a new government.

In accordance with the new articles of the constitution, I will begin forming this government, and I will begin broad consultations on forming a government which will be primarily devoted to facing the practical issues, and which will also contain efficient, honest, practical, and successful ministers. This government should be able to implement the program which we will soon submit to the National People's Assembly for approval.

[Unidentified interviewer] Mr Prime Minister, could you give an approximate date for when you will announce the new government?

[Merbah] Soon, perhaps within the coming few days, or perhaps before the end of the week.

[Interviewer] Mr Prime Minister, you have pointed out that the government will be formed after broad consultations. What does the term broad consultations mean? Does it mean both political and technocratic levels?

[Merbah] It means the political and technocratic levels, and also possibly some other personalities. This government should be a government of commitment and an effective government which will face up to our problems in the economic and social spheres. [end recording]

[Announcer] Kasdi Merbah, who has been commissioned to form the new government, was born on 16 April 1938 in Ben Ya'ni, in the province of Tizi Ouzou. He participated in the liberation revolution from its beginning on 1 November 1954, and was a member of the Algerian Muslim Student Union before he abandoned the classroom to go to the mountains in 1956. Within the ranks of the revolution, Kadi Merbah was appointed an information officer until the independence of Algeria in 1962, when he became director of the security center at the Ministry of National Defense.

In June 1980, Kasdi Merbah was appointed a colonel, which was the highest rank in the army at that time. From May 1979 until July 1980 he was secretary general of the Ministry of National Defense, then he was appointed deputy minister at the same ministry. In January 1982, Kasdi Merbah was appointed minister of heavy industries, in 1984 minister of agriculture, and in February 1988 he was appointed minister of health.

Kasdi Merbah was also a member of the FLN Political Bureau from December 1978 until July 1980, and from January 1984 he was an alternate member of the Political Bureau.

Bendjedid Summons Cabinet on Referendum

LD0511132788 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The president of the Republic this morning summoned a meeting of the cabinet in the wake of the referendum on constitutional reform.

The president of the Republic asked every minister to conclude his ordinary business as well as possible during the transition period before the formation of a government in accordance with the people's agreement to the reform of the constitution. [passage omitted]

The second phase of political reforms will be studied by the FLN Sixth Congress 27-28 November. The reforms will then be the subject of a referendum so that the people may air their opinions on them. [passage omitted]

Activists 'Firmly' Reject Multiparty System

LD0711091888 Algiers APS in Arabic 0820 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Algiers, 7 Nov (APS)—The regional Wilayas Conference which is preparing for the sixth FLN conference, continued its work at the Palace of Nations with wide-ranging discussions about a number of important issues on the agenda. [passage omitted]

The discussions were characterized by numerous speeches in which the majority of activists firmly rejected the idea of a multiparty system, pointing out that democracy has always existed in Algeria.

A number of speakers criticized the media for making the activists and the party responsible for the shortcomings recorded in the country. They pointed out that the media itself did not convey the views of the activists on the recent events. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak on Israeli Elections, Palestinian Issue

NC0511183388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Alexandria, 5 Nov (MENA)—Commenting on the Israeli elections, President Husni Mubarak has declared that Egypt does not interfere in the domestic affairs of its neighbors. Egypt, he said, will never abandon the Palestinian issue and will continue to exert utmost effors for the return of the occupied territory to its owners. Egypt's recovery of all its territory does not mean that it will ignore the issues of its Arab nation.

President Mubarak stressed the importance of unifying the Palestinian stand and of coordination between His Majesty King Husayn and the PLO. He expressed his hope for positive steps after the Israeli government has been formed. Mubarak made this statement in answer to questions by youths who attended the rally held today in the Al-Hasan village in the Al-Nubariyah area.

On the arbitration panel's decision on Tabah and its effect on the march of peace, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak pointed out that the verdict was in Egypt's favor and that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had stressed that Israel will honor its pledges and both countries will take steps to implement the verdict.

Responding to a question on Egypt's full sovereignty over Tabah, President Mubarak said that with the return of Tabah, Egypt will have recovered all its national soil. Mubarak pointed out that our relations with Israel will help resolve the Palestinian issue and will be used in favor of Arab peace.

When asked about a solution to the Lebanese problem, Mubarak noted that the Lebanese problem can only be solved when all foreign forces take their hands off Lebanon, when Syria and Israel withdraw their forces, and all forces that work for any non-Lebanese parties leave Lebanon to the Lebanese. The Lebanese people are capable of ending their conflict and of preserving Lebanon's unity.

President Husni Mubarak pointed out that Egypt pursues an economic policy compatible with the interest of its people, and rejects all policies that are incompatible with its interests. He emphasized that loans are not imposed on Egypt [words indistinct]. President Mubarak went on to say: We have our own policies concerning economic reforms. We neither submit to the IMF nor to others, if the IMF's policies are not in line with our capabilities and we are more capable of formulating our policies and of diagnosing the problems that affect the Egyptian people.

His excellency noted that the socio-economic reform in Egypt is being carried out under the canopy of democracy and freedom which are progressing every day. He affirmed that all parties have the right to express their views within the institutions and in the papers. He added that there is no corruption or cover-up of corruption.

During the rally, President Mubarak distributed title deeds to 25 Egyptian university graduates.

Ghali Cites Resolution on Palestinian 'Uprising'

NC0411160988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that the UN General Assembly resolution on the Palestinian uprising asserts the international community's solidarity with the Palestinian people in their just struggle to regain their national rights. Dr Ghali commended the parts of the resolution which note the world's condemnation of the Israeli oppressive policy against Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories. He said this Israeli policy violates the rules of international law, the Geneva Convention, and the Declaration of Human Rights.

Views PNC, U.S., Other Issues

JN0511173188 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 3 Nov 88 p 18

[Interview with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by an unidentified AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM correspondent in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] The PNC will hold an emergency session in the very near future to issue its expected historic resolutions. Would you prefer to begin with a reading of the future of the Palestine question?

[Ghali] To begin with I would like to say that had it not been for the uprising, nothing would have happened. Had it not been for the mammoth popular revolution that is led by the Palestinian youths who are supported by millions of Palestinians, we would not have been faced by a historic turning point. The uprising has actually made an official announcement of a new birth in the time of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as an alternative to the official Arab- Israeli conflict. The expected developments in the Palestinian arena undoubtedly come as a response to the uprising's call.

The recent Jordanian measures disengaging legal and administative ties with the West Bank were among most important political achievements of the uprising, which has wrested a Palestinian right which has been absent for

40 years. Whether the future Palestinian step that will be made by the PNC is a form of declaring the independence of a Palestinian state of a provisional government to hold negotiations, it is necessary for the PNC to adopt a clear, integrated political program to gain the widest international support for the Palestinian people's national rights.

This program should also adopt actual measures to support and develop the uprising. This program should be based on the fact that the just solution to the Palestine question can be achieved through the international legitimacy, represented by the international conference that has full prerogatives, which should be attended by the PLO on equal footing with the other parties to the conflict.

The Palestinians must not forget that the loss of this opportunity could not be compensated. By the opportunity we mean the serious action to exploit the spirit of the uprising which has created a new political situation at a time when the world is preparing for a new stage of detente. However, it is clear that the world will not wait for too long, and therefore, the Palestinians should begin a race with time to close their ranks and to unity their stand and objective.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] What are the duties of the Arab group at this crucial stage of the future of the Palestine question, in terms of support for the movement of the Palestinian people and leadership?

[Ghali] In my opinion, the Arab priorities should begin with confronting the Israeli measures in the occupied territories. This means that every Arab state should move toward the outside world to confront the deportation of the Palestinian leaders, in particular. The coordinated collective Arab action could support the uprising. On the other hand, a move should be made toward the United States to convince it, with the beginning of the era of the new administration, of the need to change the U.S. stand toward the international conference and the right to armed struggle.

There is a positive development in the U.S. stand with the talk about the Palestinians' political rights. Yet, this falls short from the right to self-determination and the establishment of the proposed state, according to the international resolutions and what the international conscience has agreed upon, as the realistic and just solution if a permanent peace is to be achieved. Also we must be ready to confront the possibility of any Israeli escalation of its aggressiveness or any attempt to impose a demographic change. In other words, we must all continue to create facts on the ground of conflict until we reach the day when Israel finds that remaining in the West Bank and Gaza is not in its interest. The way to achieve this is by continuing to support the facts created by the uprising and to continue to create them. That is also to say that the political move we are looking for at this stage is the move that should serve all of these things.

At this stage, the wise Arab move behind the PLO will support the uprising, which proved its ability to create new facts, at the time when, for the first time in 40 years of conflict, there exist a chance for progress toward reaching the right solution; and at the time when the Arab nation has the opportunity to play its full role. We are very hopeful that the collective move will be made in this direction very quickly. We must not wait, but endeavor to continue creative Arab initiatives, the time for which has actually come. [passage omitted]

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Within a week, a new round of talks will begin between the Egyptian Government and the IMF. What are the points of agreement and points of differences?

[Ghali] The IMF mission will soon arrive to continue some discussions about the financial and economic reforms programs, agreed upon with the Egyptian Government since April 1987. These were included in the letter of intent, to which the Egyptian government committed itself before the IMF.

Actually, there is no difference between the IMF and the government about these programs. However, the only difference is about the period of time required to implement these programs. While the IMF wants to rush the implementation period, the government believes that the social factor must be considered when calculating the implementation period so that the Egyptian citizens, particularly those with limited incomes, do not get exhausted.

I must point out that the Egyptian economic reforms policy originates from an Egyptian political determination to reform the economy. In its size, timing, and degree, this reform is taking place according to an Egyptian view, which takes into account the Egyptian socio-political factor because the IMF experts, who do not always have a first hand experience with the particular social conditions of each country they deal with, sometimes present technical solutions and criterions for economic reforms which have a standard general feature and which may not necessarily suit—in their doses and timings—all states in view of the major differences in special circumstances of each state. [passage omitted]

Military Official on Cooperation With U.S.

JN0511154588 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 Nov 88 pp 1, 6

[Text] Egypt and the United States will participate in the modernizing and manufacturing of air-to-air missiles, such as the M-7 and M-9 missiles. The modernization will also include the control and guidance mechanisms of these missiles and the possibility to equip other combat fighters with them. The Egyptian modernization of the U.S. Chaparral air defense missiles will concentrate on a system different from that used by the United States for their guidance.

This has been stated by Major General Eng Faruq Mustafa, head of the Armed Forces Armament Commission. He said that Egypt will receive within days the first shipment of U.S. reconnaissance drones. He said that this type will be built in Egypt, after the contract for its purchase was changed to a contract to manufacture it from Egyptian components and ore materials. He said: We have actually sent a team of Egyptian experts and engineers to the United States. The team spent 3 years in training. We now have the necessary experience to manufacture and modernize these drones.

He also said that joint U.S.-Egyptian cooperation has entered many fields in the manufacturing of antitank missiles, such as the Dragon-3 missile, which is considered one of the third generation of missiles and the most modern in this field. He added: We have participated in the researches connected to the production of this missile after the Americans have finished the production of Dragon-2 missile. We have participated in modernizing these missiles until we reached the third generation, which will suit our needs and the theatre of Egyptian military operations.

The director of the Armament Commission said: The manufucturing of the M-1 tank will be carried out in five stages, where the final stage will end with manufucturing 85 percent of the tank's components locally. This huge technological project will provide the Egyptian military industry with the opportunity to supply the United States with important components and spare parts for the tank. This industry will also provide Egypt with the opportunity to work according to the standards of quality employed in the United States. These standards are very high and will improve the ones we have here and put them on the right technical track. Therefore, Egyptian military industries will manufacture products that are very efficient and which will be able to compete with foreign products in the U.S. markets.

He added: As for U.S.-Egyptian naval cooperation, the U.S. officials have expressed their desire to cooperate with Egyptian naval arsenals in the field of manufucturing missile boats, mine sweepers, and non-nuclear submarines. We agreed with the U.S. side to manufacture these naval arms in Egypt. The cooperation will also include the modernization of our supply of submarines and other military ships.

ICRC Official Meets With Mubarak

NC0611102188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Egypt is exerting intensive efforts to resolve the issue of Egyptian prisoners in Iran.

In a statement he made following President Husni Mubarak's meeting this morning with the deputy chairman of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], Dr 'Abd al-Majid said the issue of Egyptian prisoners and the Committee's efforts in this respect were discussed in the meeting. He added that there is progress in the current negotiations between Iraq and Iran on the exchange of prisoners and this includes Egyptian prisoners. He expressed the hope there will be the desired progress on this issue in the near future.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid reported that the deputy chairman of the ICRC praised the cooperation the committee is getting from the Egyptian Government and that President Mubarak noted that the ICRC's humanitarian work deserves every encouragement. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, the ICRC official said that President Mubarak is very interested in the role played by the ICRC in international conflicts and disputes. He noted that they discussed the efforts exerted to exchange prisoners between Iraq and Iran. He added: I also briefed the president on the IRCC's recent efforts in Sudan and its work in the occupied Arab territories, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Paper on Firebomb Attack, Israeli Elections

NC0511153588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—In its commentary today, the newspaper AL-AHRAM expresses the belief that the firebomb attack on the Israeli bus, in which a number of Israeli civilians were killed and wounded, was deliberate. AL-AHRAM adds that the attack was carried on the eve of the Israeli elections so that it would be the straw with which Likud and the extremists would win, as the Israeli voters would go to the polls with this incident hanging in their minds.

AL-AHRAM says that obnoxious imperialism used to resort to such incidents to ensure its suvival and domination and to demand huge compensations but these bloody theatrics were soon exposed and thwarted. As for those who believe that what happened in Israel was a repetition of this tragedy, their view is that some rulers and extremists there still harbor in their thoughts and actions the heritage of the accursed past.

The newspaper says that some believe that the incident was purely Palestinian and was carried out by a group which broke away from unanimity or which miscalculated and chose the wrong target. Others believe it was the work of insane Palestinian extremists or fanatic Israeli settlers who view any attack as a heroic act to be remembered in times of trouble and chaos. Such an attack gives them a sense of power, internal freedom, and ability to participate in making events.

AL-AHRAM adds that no matter what, the incident occurred under suspicious circumstances and at a crucial time. It was able to influence hesitant voters and make

them favor one party over the other. However, what would have happened if the attack was on a bus carrying Palestinian civilians? Would it have produced a different effect?

AL-AHRAM concludes by saying that some time will pass before an Israeli government is formed and it takes up its executive duties in the wake of the Israeli elections. However, the victory of extremist elements and the possibility that the new government will adopt harsher measures against the Palestinians will only lead to more intransigence by the Palestinians and more acts of resistance. The intransigence of the two sides will then perhaps reach the point of no return.

Israeli Elections 'Shock' Peace Seekers

NC0611080788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has expressed its belief that the results of the Israeli elections are a shock to everyone who is eager to speed up the peace process and that everyone who hoped for a new peace initiative is now in despair.

AL-AHRAM writes in its editorial today, Sunday, that the final outcome of the Israeli elections shows Likud has lost 2 seats and Labor 5 seats, while both the right-wing and left-wing parties have gained. It says there is now a heated race between Shamir and Peres to win over these extremist religious parties that have emerged as the biggest winners in the elections. It adds that Peres is in turn trying to get them to his side to support the Labor party and left-wing parties because these "are not all right-wing parties" he claims.

The paper expresses the belief that Peres' chances here are less than Shamir's, who is now moving within a loose ideological framework to rally all the parties that are ideologically compatible with his own thinking. It says that both trends are based on the premise of protecting Israel's security, but the victory of the right-wing trend shows that future action will be within the context of the greater Israel dream while leaving the means of fulfilling this dream to circumstances.

It adds that if the other trend can form a strong opposition front and if Arab and international forces can have an influence which can go along with this trend, it could be possible to impede the right-wing trend and extremism in Israel and derail its momentum.

PLO Urged To Adhere to UN Resolutions

NC0511155788 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: "The Palestinian Issue and the Importance of the Current Stage"]

[Text] The Israeli elections are over and the Israelis have chosen their representatives pending the formation of a new government. Will the government be formed by the Likud bloc and the religious and rightist parties, or will a national unity government be formed by the Likud and the Alignment, as was the case in the past 4 years? What is the anticipated political program of this government? As it has constantly reaffirmed, Egypt is ready to deal with any government chosen by the Israeli people to run their affairs. Egypt's sole concern is focused on how the Israeli Government will handle the Palestinian issue, not who will head the government or to which party this government belongs.

True, there is a trend that Shamir, who is known for his intransigent stand, who exmphasizes his rejection of the idea of convening an international conference, declares that he will in no way deal with the PLO, threatens to annihilate the Palestinians and crush their resistance, and uses the most violent means to destroy their revolution and uprising, will form the new government. This, however, must not prompt the PLO to respond to such statements by declaring measures that deflect it from the course it has followed by accepting UN Resolujtion 181 to establish Israeli and Palestinian states side by side, a course by which the PLO emphasizes that it accepts the peaceful path toward the goal of establishing an independent state.

Since Shamir's statements are characterized by intransigence, they reflect Likud's policy of refusing to deal with the Palestinians. The question posed here is where this intransigence will lead. In whose interests are these stands taken, can real peace be reached through these ideas? Who gains and who loses from this policy? The interests of all peoples of the region, primarily the Israeli people, lie in achieving peace and in eliminating the hotbeds of tension in the region. Needless to say, failure to resolve the Palestinian issue will lead to further tension in the region and, therefore, will harm, Israel more than any other party. Israel has tried force and security zones, but failed to achieve any result. The people in Israel continue to live in anxiety, for fear of Palestinian retaliation for Israeli violence.

Thinking of exterminating the Palestinian people or crushing their will is illogical. Experience has shown that the Palestinian people do exist and proof of this is the continuation of their sweeping revolution for well over 11 months without letup, despite use of the most bestial and illegal means of repression against them. The Palestinian people are a reality and their rights are legitimate and must be restored. The best means of achieving this is the path of peace.

Since the advocates of obduracy are about to take the helm, the other party must not rush heedlessly to a stand, but must exercise patience, and deal with events through an objective and realistic political concept. Since Yasir 'Arafat has repeatedly asserted that there is no difference in Palestinian dealing with the Israeli leaderships and that the PLO sees no difference in views between the two major parties in Israel or their positions on the Palestinian issue, the PLO must in the forthcoming PNC meeting follow an

enlightened diplomatic method supported by international legalities and the United Nations resolutions, foremost of which is Resolution 181, which provides for the establishment of Palestinian and Israeli states. The PLO will thus obstruct the Israeli intransigent elements, who constantly try to label the PLO as terrorist.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed by CNN TV

LD0511212188 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1740 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Washington, 5 Nov (JANA)—The U.S. CNN TV network has interviewed the brother leader of the revolution.

At the beginning of the interview, the brother leader of the revolution said: I am addressing the American people, who, I hope, are friends not only of the Libyan Arab people but also of all the peoples of the Arab nation and all the peoples of the world. I hope also that they will get rid of the evil and mad Reagan administration which has caused material and moral losses to the American people. Reagan's administration has harmed the reputation of the United States all over the world and has inflicted human and material losses everywhere, from Lebanon to the Philippines to Grenada, from Sinai to West Germany and all parts of the world.

The leader added: I wish there were a brave candidate in the United States like Gorbachev, and that his bravery would bring about a new program which would equal or surpass the perestroyka presented by Gorbachev. It is important to have bravery, sincerity, and an administration which is peace-loving and which cherishes the workers in a country like the United States because it is the largest [as received] state in the world.

The leader pointed out that this is important for the Great Jamahiriyah and for all of the international community because, if the opposite happens, the world will suffer from an evil administration like Reagan's which has attracted destruction and which would have pushed the world closer to the abyss if it were not for the emergence of Gorbachev and his program of eliminating nuclear missiles.

The leader went on to say: I hope also that the next U.S. President will be bold and close to the masses and will distance himself from talk about the development of weapons, particularly weapons of mass destruction. I am amazed that Dukakis, who had popularity, supports a mad policy—I do not know how it was instilled into him to—of developing submarine missiles. The leader said that this policy has had an effect on Dukakis's popularity.

The brother leader of the revolution added that Dukakis should be against the arms race and against the production of mass destruction weapons. There should have been a courageous candidate who could assert his stand against the Reagan administration because it is a hated, mad, stupid, and sly administration which has harmed the United States and led the world into an era which only knows the language of threat, war, force, blockade, fleets, and raids. He pointed out that the answer to such a policy has been this violence which is being seen throughout the world against the U.S. presence and against the United States' allies everywhere, against their bases, (?missions), and embassies. Their tourists and citizens are today facing this strenuous violence from the whole of the world.

The brother leader of the revolution said that the new U.S. policy should be to torpedo the policy of the insane Reagan. The new president should, furthermore, announce that he will try Reagan and his administration for their (?crimes) against the world as well as for killing children in Libya and the transformation of (?civilian) targets in Libya into military targets and targets for military vengeance. He should be tried for the crimes which he has committed against Americans everywhere in the world.

Moreover, there should have been a candidate who supports real human rights which are nonexistent in today's America. Human rights in the United States are totally violated. And the fundamental right of any human being is to be rewarded for the sweat of his brow. The workers in the United States should be justly rewarded for their sweat; it should not be stolen by the monopolist companies, by the private sector, and the cartels.

The brother leader of the revolution went on to say that a daring candidate would have announced that the worker should reap the reward for his labor; he who works for 10 hours should be paid for 10 hours; he who works for 5 hours should be paid for 5 hours. If the candidate was even more daring he would have stated that wage-earners should become partners in production; they should not give up their production in return for a salary.

The second basic right of a human being is his right to self-determination. The leader indicated that man should be able to decide his fate for himself; nobody should act on his behalf; nobody can act on behalf of a people; representation means duplicity.

The third right of a human being is his right to a home and the fourth right is the right to social security. These are fundamental rights: the reward for man's labor, self-determination, a home, and social security.

The leader of the revolution said that none of these rights exist in the United States. Millions of people sleep on the streets; there is no social security; there is no social umbrella under which the U.S. citizen can seek shelter; there is no respect for man's self-determination; man cannot decide his own fate; he is not rewarded for his effort; there is a blatant exploitation of man's effort.

The leader added that the superficial rights of which the United States boasts should be abolished by a daring candidate. He should consider them to be demagoguery. These superficial rights are: the right to join a political party, the right to litigation, the right to confidentiality of messages and telephone contacts at a time when he may not even possess the means of contact, the right to strike means that injustice and unfairness is directed against this man, and since there is both a right to exploit and to strike against this exploitation what can these strikes achieve? What did exploitation do for any U.S. citizen or for any exploited human being?.

The leader of the revolution stressed that the basic rights are those mentioned in the Great Green Book on human rights. This book explains to mankind his fundamental rights in this epoch. The U.S. presidential candidates should read the Green Book; the American people should read the great Green Book which was issued in the Great Jamahiriyah and which explains the real rights of man in the era of the masses.

The brother leader went on to say the new U.S. President should be aware of the extent of the United States' links with the Zionist entity which is occupying Palestine. This is an historic risk as far as the United States is concerned, and the United States should not tie itself to this racist and extermist entity which is armed with the atom and which lives only on war, which manufactures weapons of mass destruction weapons, and which practices terrorism.

The Israelis will be the cause of a third world war, and the United States will be destroyed if it follows Israeli policies because the Israelis believe that they are God's chosen people and all other people—the Americans, the Russians, the Arabs, and other peoples—should cease to exist, so that they, the Jewish people, will remain God's chosen people. This belief motivates the Zionist entity and on it is based a racist, Zionist, and religious state which is hostile to mankind and anti-Semitic, because the Arabs are Semites.

The links between the United States and the Zionists should have been severed because this link holds within itself the danger of drawing the world to the abyss and it will lead the United States to the abyss. The Israelis want to sacrifice U.S. interests and expose them to danger for the sake of their own existence and their narrow and blind racist interests.

The leader explained that there is a worrying tradition which, if repeated this time, will have a bad effect on relations between the United States and the Arab countries. The tradition is to have a secretary of state who is Jewish. This would mean that he is an Israeli, that is, a person from the racist Israeli entity. The leader said that if this tradition is repeated, it will harm the United States and its interests and its relations with the Arab and Islamic countries. I personally, he said, will wage a strong campaign to prevent this, because we do not accept that the U.S. secretary of state should always be a Jew. This means that U.S. foreign policy is led by the enemies of the Arab nation, the Zionists.

In his interview with CNN TV, the brother leader of the revolution continued:

The new U.S. President should abandon the conflict between the Arabs and Zionists. The superpowers should adopt a neutral stand, because the Israelis are practicising an appalling blackmail of the United States and are leading it toward World War III. He should rescue the United States and save it from this dangerous connection with Israel which harms the reputation of the American people.

The leader added: The U.S. President should declare the withdrawal of the U.S. fleets and should respond to the Soviet proposal to withdraw foreign fleets from the Mediterranean and to declare the Mediterranean a lake of peace and commerce free from all foreign fleets. The brother leader stressed that this is the wish of the Mediterranean peoples.

He said: We would like that sea to be free of foreign fleets and military bases, and to be a a nonnuclear zone free from nuclear weapons. He stressed that the Israelis are the only ones to introduce nuclear weapons into the region with the help of the Americans, and now they are manufacturing chemical weapons and microbiological weapons.

The leader said: The U.S. President should announce that he will close the U.S. all over the world to bring the world to a new era of peace. He should declare an end to the era of crazy arms race and dismantle the weapons of mass destruction. He should put the American house in order, pay attention to the Americans who are homeless and have no social security, abolish capital punishment in the states which retain it, abolish the appalling methods of execution such as poison needles, poison gas, and electric chairs, abolish racial descrimination between blacks and whites, and give the minorities, such as the Red Indians, their rights and grant them self-determination so that U.S. society will become what Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln wanted.

I hope that the new U.S. Administration and the new President will avoid childish adventures [words indistinct] carrying the necessary residence conditions. I pointed out that there is the problem of thousands of Eritreans, for example, who are asked for official documents from the Ethiopian Embassy, and they do not get them at all. There is a large number of [words indistinct] for freedom and liberation.

The leader said: I hope there is a brave U.S. President who will declare new principles and a new policy of pleasing the peoples because there is a new era and a change in America, similar to the change happening now

in the Soviet Union under Gorbachev's leadership. And I hope that the United States will declare that it supports the unity of the Arab nation and the Kurdish nation, and declare that it will not interfere in the internal affairs of others. I hope that the new President will abolish the terrifying, malignant, dirty, appalling CIA, and the end of the policy of state terrorism which is practised by the United States against the peoples, including the Libyan people.

The leader added: I am quite serious in this concern, because my people are the victims of the aggressive U.S. policy. U.S. state terrorism is still being practised, and the U.S. has crude ambitions in our territorial waters and in the Gulf of Sidra. The United States threatens the security of this peaceful people who have suffered much from the Italian invasion, the British invasion, the German invasion, and the Vandal invasion, and now suffers from the new crusades led by the United States. The new U.S. President should put an end to the imperialist and crusade spirit and replace it with the spirit of forgiveness, freedom, peace, coexistence, and respect for the views of others.

The brother leader of the revolution said in his interview with CNN; I repeat that I have received documents from Panama, from the East, from the West, and from Islamic sources; I have asked the holders of document on both sides of Panama and in other countries not to publish these documents and to give an opportunity to the winning U.S. candidate who may be someone who has learned lessons from the sly and imperialist U.S. policy, particularly the policy of the damned and ominous Reagan.

I have such documents and I know that there have been negotiations with those holding the hostages, and there has been bargaining in this respect. Well, I am going to guard this for myself, and not attribute it to anyone. However, the new U.S. President has 4 year before him; the documents may be published at anytime during this period if publication is thought to be in the interests of the U.S. policy toward my country, my nation, and the peoples of the Third World.

The leader went on to say: There are also documents dealing with "Irangate", as well as with arms, hostages, and drugs issues. I have, however, repeatedly asked my friends in the regions which I mentioned above, after they asked and consulted me about that, not to publish the documents and not to disturb the U.S. elections now.

At the end of the interview, the brother leader of the revolution thanked CNN TV and greeted the American people. He said: I send my greetings to the American people whom I wish to be a friend of my people and the small peoples struggling for freedom. I hope that the U.S. will throw its weight, in a new era, behind peace and freedom and that the language of war and terrorism will disappear and that the peoples and the decisions concerning their fate and peace will be respected.

Al-Turayki Comments on Relations with U.S.

PM0711110488 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 2-8 Nov 88 p 21

[Interview with Dr 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, UN representative and former foreign minister, by Salih Qallab; date, place not given]

[Text] [Qallab] The United States has recently made accusations against Libya claiming that it has built a large plant for the manufacture of chemical weapons. How true are these charges and why have they been made at this particular time?

[Al-Turayki] These accusations are clearly a part of the misleading campaign that has been in progress for years against the Jamahiriyah. We have issued a statement refuting these charges and allegations. The brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has said that what the U.S. intelligence service was referring to is a pharmaceutical plant to be opened soon. Anyone can verify what we are saying, visit the factory, and discern the truth. In any case the various U.S. circles are not even agreed among themselves on this issue, since the official spokesman has denied the CIA claims.

[Qallab] Are there any particular motives behind these accusations?

[Al-Turayki] The aim of the U.S. campaign is to defame the Arabs as such. The United States has levelled similar direct accusations at Iraq and Syria at a time when the Americans know for certain that it is Israel that poses the threat to world peace with the nuclear weapons it possesses and is manufacturing. The Jamahiriyah has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Israel is continually defying the world by producing nuclear bombs but the United States has done nothing about it and in fact gives Israel every technological and financial aid.

[Qallab] Some reports speak of contacts between you and the United States despite this open disagreement. What is the truth of these reports?

[Al-Turayki] Actually there are no official contacts between us and the United States. Quite the contrary, since the U.S. campaign against us is continuing. The best evidence of this is that they persecute our students at American universities and detain them on false and unfounded charges.

[Qallab] Are we to understand from what you are saying that there are no direct or indirect official contacts?

[Al-Turayki] There are no official contacts whatsoever. The U.S. anti-Libyan and anti-Arab policy is continuing.

[Qallab] But we understand that there are contacts aimed at enabling U.S. companies to resume operations in Libya.

[Al-Turayki] I assure you that there is nothing new in this connection. All there is to it is that some American individuals are still working in Libya, in oil and other sectors. I must point out here—and we officially and publicly confirmed this a long time ago, after the air raids on the Jamahiriyah—that we have not asked the Americans working in our country to leave and that it is the U.S. Administration which is putting pressure on these people to force them to leave their work and interests.

[Qallab] What about the boycott imposed by the United States on Libya. Is that still continuing?

[Al-Turayki] Yes, it is continuing as before.

[Qallab] To what extent are the European states committed to that boycott?

[Al-Turayki] The European states have not boycotted us even for one moment. Certain European states adopted some measures along with the United States but, except for Britain, they soon abandoned these measures and everything returned to normal.

[Qallab] What are your conditions for restoring dipomatic relations with the United States?

[Al-Turayki] It was Washington and not we who severed these relations, but I must point out here that the problems between us and the United States are major and complex. We regard it not as a U.S.-Libyan problem but as a U.S.-Arab problem. The United States has never abandoned its hostility to Arab causes in general and the Palestinian cause in particular—not for a single day. It is common knowledge that the United States supports the Israeli drive against our Palestinian people. Not only does it turn a blind eye to the facts. It effectively and directly participates in the Israeli aggressions against our Arab nation.

[Qallab] Once again we ask: Do you have any conditions, and are you willing to restore relations, or not?

[Al-Turayki] Libya does not wish to antagonize any state in the world. We base our relations with other states on mutual respect and noninterference in the affairs of others. We take into consideration the fact that the United States is a superpower and that we should have good tension-free relations with it. While confirming that fact, we must also ask the United States to change its past hostile policy not only toward Libya but toward all the Arabs and the Palestinian people's rights. How can we say that the United States could be a friend when it still sides with Israel and refuses to recognize the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights?

[Qallab] It has been observed that the Americans have withdrawn their fleets from the areas close to Libya's territorial waters and they no ionger hold exercises in the Gulf of Sidra.

[Al-Turayki] As I have said, our hands are outstretched and we want good relations with all states—but on the basis of recognition of our rights and no support for our enemies.

[Qallab] The United States has again raised what it calls the issue of terrorism. Are these charges part of the campaign you mentioned or are there other things involved?

[Al-Turayki] They have indeed made accusations against us yet again but we have challenged them and requested recourse to the International Court of Justice. They have no evidence and all their charges are deliberate fabrications lacking any tangible evidence. Before committing their aggression against us they accused us of responsibility for the Rome and Vienna airports operations but the Italians and Austrians denied these charges. The same happened in connection with the West German nightclub bombing. The West German Government denied the charge and said that it had no evidence against the Jamahiriyah in connection with that operation.

[Qallab] With regard to Chad, is the United States still in confrontation with you on that issue?

[Al-Turayki] On the question of Chad, the Libyan Jamahiriyah, as everyone knows, has adopted resolute decisions and the brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has taken radical steps to end the dispute with Chad and establish relations with it based on good-neighborliness and mutual cooperation, but it seems that the Libyan step in connection with Chad has annoyed the United States and thwarted many of its designs in the region, the U.S. position of direct military presence continues.

Ghana's Rawlings, Uganda's Musaveni Arrive

LD0611213888 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The brother leader of the revolution this evening had a meeting with President Museveni, the president of the Republic of Uganda, and with Jerry Rawlings, chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council of Ghana [PNDC]

Yoweri Museveni president of the Republic of Uganda, arrived at the airport of the Municipality of the Gulf of Challenge [Surt] this evening on a visit the Great Jamahiriyah. President Yoweri Museveni was given a grand popular welcome at the airport, where the brother leader of the revolution was at the head of those who came to welcome him. [passage omitted] President Museveni made a statement to a JANA correspondent in which he said that all Africans are brothers, that African leaders should emphasize this unity among African nations, and that we share the same idea—the idea of liberating Africa.

Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, the Ghana PNDC chairman, upon arrival at Surt Airport, was given a grand popular welcome at which the brother leader of the revolution and President Yoweri Museveni headed those who welcomed him. [passage omitted]

Flt Lt Jerry Rawlings made a statement to JANA in which he affirmed the importance of this visit and of intensifying bilateral meetings between the two friendly countries. He noted that it is very important that we meet from time to time to review matters and issues which are of concern to our African continent in particular and the world in general. He said that the struggle of the progressive forces requires us to intensifying the continuous contacts and meetings between us. He added: I bring the Libyan Arab people warm greetings from the people of Ghana. I also convey to them our wishes of more progress and victory.

OAU Hails Resumption of Relations With Zaire

LD0511183888 Tripoli JANA in English 1654 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 5, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Idi Oumarou, the secretary general of the OAU, expressed his high appreciation of the declaration of Great Jamahiriyah announcing the resumption of diplomatic relations with Zaire.

Idi Oumarou expressed, in a congratulatory message to the leader of the revolution on this occasion, the hope that this step will contribute to the consolidation of cooperation relations between the two countries and the realisations of the aspirations of the Libyan Arab people and the people of Zaire and Africa in general.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Senegal

LD0511164588 Tripoli JANA in English 1437 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A Libyan Arab Senegalese communique was issued today in both Tripoli and Dakar is as follows:

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Senegal, the two African sisterly countries, taking into consideration the principles and objectives of the OAU's Charter calling upon all member states to work continuously so as to consolidate understanding amongst African peoples and the assertion of unity, solidarity and fraternity amongst African countries and while taking into consideration the care taken by the two countries' leaders of relations between them represented by the efforts exerted by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdahfi, the leader of the great Al-Fatah revolution, and President Abdou Diouf, the president of the Republic of Senegal, which embody the firm desire to give impetus and expand and consolidate the scope of cooperation between the two countries on the bases of the principles of the Charter of the United States [as received] and the OAU in realisation of the deep aspirations of the two brotherly peoples in Libya and Senegal.

And in conformity with these considerations, the two countries agreed on the establishment of political and diplomatic relations between them at ambassadorial level as from the 5th Al-Harth (November) 1988 at 1300 Greenwich Mean Time.

Morocco

King Hassan II Addresses Green March Anniversary

LD0611223188 [Editorial Report] Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic at 2047 GMT carries a 21-minute recorded speech by His Majesty King Hassan II on the occasion of the Green March anniversary.

King Hassan II began by explaining that during the Green March, Moroccan territories were recovered through peaceful means. The Green March, he said, reunited families that had been divided by colonialism. Morocco believes in its legitimate rights, the king said, stressing that he will continue to protect Moroccan sovereignty and strive to reunite the Moroccan people.

Discussing the referendum, King Hassan II said: "On this occasion, and from this platform, I am saying to all those with good intentions, and to all those who have even one drop of blood flowing in their body that links them with Morocco, I say to them that the homeland is forgiving and compassionate. We are about to embark on a referendum and I know best the atmosphere surrounding this referendum. I know that there are families whose hearts are divided, their hearts are crying and bleeding because some of them are here while others are over there [in Western Sahara]. I say to those who went astray and lost their way that they should fear God for the sake of the homeland and kinship. They should realize that the referendum on which we embark with all our determination and strength and our belief in our right will further enhance the right that has already been confirmed for years and centuries."

King Hassan II highlighted the lessons learned from the Green March such as the belief in one's rights, the pursuance of one's rights through peaceful means, and the avoidance of tyranny. The king concluded that he will carry out his duty and protect his country.

UAE President Received by King Hassan

LD0511231688 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Excerpts] At noon today in the royal palace in Ifrane, His Majesty King Hassan II, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Muhammad and Prince Moulay Rachid, received UAE President Shayk Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The president was accompanied by a high-ranking delegation. [passage omitted]

His majesty had a private meeting with His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and then hosted a luncheon in honor of the high guest and his delegation. [passage omitted]

Confers With King

JN0611095088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Rabat, 5 Nov (WAKH)—King Hassan II of Morocco met here today with His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, who is currently visiting Morocco. Shaykh Zayid arrived in Rabat on 3 November on a visit lasting several days.

A responsible source said that the two leaders conducted a comprehensive assessment of all issues of common interest on the Arab and international levels, foremost among which are the various aspects of the current Arab situation as well as the latest developments in light of the political variables and circumstances facing the Arab world.

The two leaders also exchanged views on the efforts being exerted to close Arab ranks and realize effective solidarity to serve the objectives of the Arab nation and enable it to confront the imminent dangers looming over it. They also exchanged opinions on the need to bolster positions and effect joint coordination on several issues, especially the Palestine question and the situation in Lebanon.

The responsible source added that during their meeting His Highness Shaykh Zayid and the Moroccan monarch discussed the current state of affairs and developments in the Lebanese arena as well as the Arab and international positions toward them within the framework of the call made by His Highness Shaykh Zayid to Arab leaders to take urgent steps to save Lebanon.

The source pointed out that His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan affirmed to the Moroccan monarch that the proposal he made on Lebanon sought to save Lebanon, this fraternal Arab state, from its tribulations and end Arab apathy toward an important member of the Arab body, considering the fact that immense destruction has resulted from the ongoing strife in Lebanon.

The source also indicated that His Highness Shaykh Zayid emphasized to the Moroccan monarch that it is high time for the Arabs to realize that Lebanon's fate is inseparable from the fate of its Arab nation. His highness also asserted his full eagerness to find a peaceful solution to the Lebanese problem in a manner that ensures its stability and preserves the unity of its people and its territorial integrity.

The source added that during the meeting King Hassan II voiced his great satisfaction with and deep appreciation of the honest pan-Arab positions taken by his highness the UAE president.

In this regard, the source noted that one of the UAE's firm principles is its eagerness to see fraternal meetings among brothers continue to discuss and assess issues positively and in a manner that helps take the suitable and effective decisions to enhance the Arab position.

Concluding his statement, the source said that the fraternal meeting between the two leaders also tackled the situation in the Arabian Gulf region in light of the Iraq-Iran cease-fire and the current negotiations between the two countries to reach a just and balanced peaceful settlement.

PRC Economic, Commercial Vice-Minister Arrives

LD0411224788 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] Rabat, Nov 4, (MAP)—A Chinese delegation, led by vice-minister of foreign economic and commercial relations Li Lanqing, arrived Thursday in Rabat to partake in the third session of the Moroccan-Chinese Joint Commission.

In a statement upon arrival, Li Lanqing said he will seize the opportunity of being in Morocco to hold a series of talks with officials here with the view to further reinforce economic and trade relations between Morocco and China.

Meets Cooperation Official

LD0411230588 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] The proceedings of the third meeting of the Moroccan-Chinese joint commission started this morning at the Foreign Ministry in Rabat. The opening session was cochaired by Mr Rafiq Haddaoui, director general of the International Cooperation Department, and Mr Li Lanqing, first vice minister of foreign economic and commercial relations, in the presence of the two countries' ambassadors.

On this occasion, Mr Rafiq Haddaoui said that the Moroccan-Chinese relations, which are over 30 years old, have never been through a period of stagnation or slackness. During all these years, each side has endeavored to support the other side's policy and efforts and endeavored to develop cooperative relations between the two countries at many levels.

At the commercial level, Mr Haddaoui expressed hope that bilateral trade, in addition to phosphate and tea, would encompass many more sectors relating to agriculture and fisheries. At the technical level and in joint investments, Mr Haddaoui added that a number of small- and medium-size Moroccan enterprises had

expressed their readiness to coordinate with Chinese enterprises in order to realize some joint projects and open new channels for the exchange of experts and for cooperation at the level of the public and private sectors.

Mr Li Lanqing indicated that Morocco was one of the first states to establish diplomatic relations with China based on friendship and cooperation. The two sides, he added, have endeavored to develop those relations until they encompassed many levels. The Chinese official went on to say that at the commercial level, the volume of trade has improved tangibly over the last few years and that the two countries had to make additional efforts to achieve a balance in exchange through the diversification of their exports and imports.

Regarding the technical level, Mr Li Lanqing indicated that his country had contributed and was still contributing to the realization of many projects in Morocco and that the latter also benefitted from China's experience in numerous fields through the exchange of experts, particularly in the health sector and in mining. Finally, the Chinese official expressed optimism that this meeting would result in many concrete proposals for the development of bilateral cooperation relations.

Attends Cooperation Session

LD0511203688 Rabat MAP in English 1247 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Rabat, Nov 5 (MAP)—The Moroccan-Chinese technical and commercial joint commission began, Friday in Rabat, the works of its third session.

Director of international cooperation at the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Rafiq Haddaoui and Chinese Vice-Minister of Foreign Economic and Trade Relations Li Lanqing co-chaired the meeting, which coincides with the 30th aniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Morocco and China. This session, Haddaoui said, should permit an assessment of achievements made since the second session held in November 1986 and to examine means to further develop bilateral cooperation in all fields, mainly economic, commercial and technical.

While trade exchanges are regular, Haddaoui added, there is a deficit in the trade balance in favour of China. He said to reestablish equilibrium, the commission is called upon to think out means of promoting Chinese imports of Moroccan products. He proposed in this respect that economic opeators in both countries be encouraged to undertake joint ventures in various fields.

Haddaoui also expressed hope for greater Chinese participation in carrying out financing Moroccan development projects.

On Technical cooperation, Haddaoui expressed satisfaction at the level attained by this cooperation, mainly in the medical domain. He stressed the need to seek avenues to further promote and enlarge this technical cooperation.

Li Lanqing for his part expressed hope the commisson's works will lead to concrete results of a nature to boost Moroccan-Chinese cooperation. "We have the same determination to develop and consolidate relations with the Moroccan government and people", he said.

On the question of the balance of payments, deficitary on the Moroccan side, Li Lanqing said his country was presently working to raise its imports from Morocco with a view to establishing a commercial balance.

Two working groups were then set up, the first in charge of trade issues and the second of economic and technical questions.

Tunisia

'Important' Government Measures To Begin 7 Nov

LD0511002588 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] Within the framework of President Zine El Abidine Ben A'li's continuing commitment to provide the necessary means for promoting comprehensive development and activating economic action to achieve the desired aims in production and employment, and because of his consideration of the need to remove obstacles to development action, a number of important measures which will come into force on 7 November were adopted during an inner cabinet meeting supervised by the president at the Jumhuriyah Palace in Carthage and attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche.

These measures, which complement the previous ones, come within the framework of the strategy aimed at consolidating the structures of the national economy and giving them more flexibility, effectiveness, and competitiveness. These measures cover three courses: activating investment and economic action; reducing production costs and controlling prices; and consolidating the employment potential in economic activities.

As regards activating investment and economic action, the following has been decided:

1. To reduce customs on imported production equipment from 22 percent to 10 percent;

2. To suspend value added tax on equipment, currently 17 percent, whether those concerned are local producers or importers;

3. To reduce costs of borrowing from the banking system by 1.5 - 2 percent by abolishing taxes on interest and altering some banking fees;

4. To ratify a preferential system for the benefit of the two sectors of textiles and mechanical and electrical industries for (?reducing) operations to enable the institutions to provide the necessary reserve by renewing their equipment in the best possible circumstances;

5. To approve a system for a reserve structure to cover the risks of nonpayment of debts for the various institutions calculated at 20 percent of the profit for the banks and 10 percent for the economic institutions.

As regards the reduction of production costs and controlling prices, the following has been decided:

1. To abolish the (?commission) on consumption for some ordinary consumer goods such as leather products, household equipment, and plastics;

2. To reduce value added tax for some sensitive activities, especially food industries.

As regards employment potential, it has been decided to adopt a number of measures aimed at reducing the costs of creating jobs and providing more funds for employing graduate youth. This will be done by:

1. Reducing the surcharge on salaries for the benfit of the housing fund from 2 percent to 1 percent;

2. Reducing the surcharge of vocational training on salaries in the sector of laboratory industries from 2 percent to 1 percent;

3. Approving an optional system in health insurance, which enables the companies opting for collective insurance contracts to reduce by 2 percent its contributions to the social security fund;

4. Forming a fund which will be financed by a percentage of the income from the surcharge of vocational training aimed at consolidating the (?waiting) system for the benefit of graduate youth.

Because of President Ben Ali's commitment to make the administration play a full part in promoting the national economy and to be an effective tool in supporting the mobility of development, the president recommended drafting a clear and practical program to reduce the administrative course and to simplify procedures, especially concerning the creation of economic projects for which the period of preparing their files and grating the necessary licenses to their owners must not exceed 3 months.

Political Prisoners, Others Given Amnesty

LD0511151988 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] On the occasion of the 7 November anniversary [of accession of current regime in 1987] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has issued an order granting presidential pardon to a large number of people convicted on political and criminal charges.

This pardon comes within the framework of presidential measures aimed at emptying the prisons of political prisoners, enhancing national reconciliation, establishing harmony and understanding among Tunisians and enabling all of them to contribute to the building of a new Tunisia and giving those who erred the opportunity to return to the bosom of society.

In this context, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage this morning with Justice Minister Hamed Karoui in the presence of Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche.

The amnesty concerns 41 prisoners convicted during the so-called cases of the Islamic Tendency and the Islamic Jihad and 47 people who were denied their freedom by way of punishment, 9 of whom were involved in the so-called case of the left and the remaining 38 in the so-called case of the Islamic Tendency.

The president also ordered that the prosecution procedures be stopped against 70 people accused in the security case brought before the military examining magistrate. There are also the people who did not call for the use of violence and did not make plans to that end.

The presidential amnesty also concerned 2,031 prisoners who were convicted on criminal charges; some of them had their sentences commuted, as a result of which 464 prisoners were released.

Sixty-three people who had received complementary sentences and 20 others who had received fines also benefited from the amnesty.

Moeover, on the occasion of the 7 November anniversary, 694 people who had been convicted recovered their rights, 9 of whom had been convicted on political charges.

Ben Ali on Signing of National Charter

LD0711104988 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0952 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Speech by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the House of Representatives following the signing and ratification of the National Charter—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, and compassionate. Ladies and gentlemen: Your signing and ratification today of the National Charter is a very important event. What is more, it is significant that it is taking place on the 1st anniversary of 7 November [when Ben Ali assumed power].

History will record that today represents another important milestone in Tunisian history and a landmark on the way toward establishing a state of law and institutions and a developed advanced society.

History will record that this charter is a consecration of national conciliation, whose foundations we laid in the 1st year of the change. This can be translated as Tunisian unanimity on consecrating the democratic option and a consolidation of the success of the 7 November march.

We insisted on our charter containing the aims of our people's struggle. It must respond to the calls of the men of the uprising and leaders of reform and the aspirations of our people and youth; it must be open to new horizons for a prosperous future.

This charter commits us to preserving the civilized gains which we have already achieved and makes us responsible for ensuring continuity so our country will become more advanced and impregnable.

This charter is our guide on our march toward the future, with which we will see so we do not lose our way.

As we declare the National Charter, we respectfully remember the leaders of the uprising and reform from previous generations and we also remember the martyrs of our long struggle for dignity and honor. We promise them to continue our march along their way.

Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Qatar

Foreign Ministry Official Returns From USSR

JN0411204288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, 4 Nov (WAKH)—Qatari Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Shaykh Hamad ibn Suhaym Al Thani and his delegation returned to Doha today from Moscow following a 3-day visit to the USSR.

In a statement to QNA, he expressed satisfaction with the results of this visit and described it as successful. He said that the visit has contributed to the promotion of bilateral relations and increased understanding between the two countries on several current international issues.

Joint Communique Issued

JN0511102288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, 5 Nov (WAKH)—The State of Qatar and the Soviet Union have affirmed that the Middle East issue can only be resolved through collective efforts on the basis of the Israeli forces' withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The two countries expressed absolute conviction in the urgent need for convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East in light of the continued Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories, with the participation of the UN Security Council permanent member states and all parties to the conflict, including the PLO.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY cites a joint Qatari-Soviet communique issued following the visit of Shaykh Hamad ibn Suhaym Al Thani, under secretary of the Qatari Foreign Ministry, to Moscow 2-4 November as saying that the talks held by Shaykh Suhaym during the visit have demonstrated the similarity of the stands of the two sides on major international issues. The communique indicates that the two sides have agreed soon to open embassies simultaneously in Moscow and Doha with relations on the ambassadorial level.

The two sides explained that their bilateral relations are based on a constant commitment to the principles of the UN Charter, which stipulates full equality of rights, respect for the sovereignty and freedom of nations in their choices of political systems, noninterference in internal affairs, nonuse of force, and resolving disputes through peaceful means.

Following is the text of the Qatari-Soviet joint communique:

At the invitation of the USSR Government, His Excellency Shaykh Hamad ibn Suhaym Al Thani, under secretary of the Qatari Foreign Ministry, paid a visit to Moscow 2-4 November 1988.

His excellency met with Eduard Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and foreign minister. His excellency conveyed to the Soviet minister the greetings of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, to His Excellency Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, as well as his highness' wishes to the friendly Soviet people for continued progress and prosperity. His excellency also conveyed to the Soviet minister a written message from His Excellency Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, including an invitation to visit Qatar, which he accepted with thanks. He also held talks with Bessmertnykh, USSR first deputy foreign minister; and Yuriy Chumakov, deputy foreign trade minister, during which viewpoints were exchanged on international and regional issues of joint interest, as well as on bilateral relations.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries on 1 August 1988. They indicated that this step responds to the interests of the two peoples of both countries and that they consider this step a positive development on the international level.

The two sides announced that their bilateral relations are based on a constant commitment to the UN Charter, which stipulates full equality in rights, respect for the sovereignty and freedom of peoples in their choices of political systems, noninterference in internal affairs, nonuse of force, and resolving disputes through peaceful means.

The talks demonstrated the proximity of the two sides' stands on basic international issues. The two sides agreed simultaneously to open two embassies soon in Moscow and Doha with relations on the ambassadorial level.

The two sides noted that, in light of the current swift changes, the state of affairs in the interlinked world of today requires that new principled stands on the running of international affairs be adopted, stands based on the principles of peace, recognition of international law, and consolidation of understanding and cooperation among peoples.

The Soviet Union and the State of Qatar expressed support for the need to guarantee security and freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf. The two sides believe that prospects are now available for the establishment of a soild security system in the region through collective efforts with active participation and support by the United Nations. The two sides also expressed conviction that not only the littoral states but the entire international community should benefit from making the Arabian Gulf an area of security, good-neighborliness, and cooperation.

The two sides welcomed the cessation of military operations on the Iraq-Iran front. They indicated that the current major objective is now confined to ruling out any possibility that negotiations between Iraq and Iran be forestalled, preventing the resumption of war, and making the movement toward peace irreversible. The two sides affirmed readiness to extend support for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution No 598 as soon as possble. They also affirmed support for UN efforts in this regard and for its secretary general's mission.

Upon reviewing the Middle East problem, the two sides indicated that this issue can only be resolved through collective efforts on the basis of the Israeli forces' withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate national rights, including their inalienable right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

The two sides expressed absolute conviction in the urgent need to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East in light of the Palestinian people's continued uprising in the occupied territories and with the participation of the UN Security Council permanent member states and all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

As for Lebanon, the two sides demanded an immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Southern Lebanon in accordance with the UN resolutions. They stressed support for the unity of Lebanese soil and for Lebanon's independence, security, and stability.

As for Afghanistan, the two sides affirmed the need for a commitment by all parties to the Geneva agreements on this issue.

The State of Qatar and the Soviet Union expressed satisfaction with the positive results of the talks, which were held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere. They expressed mutual interest in building and promoting Soviet-Qatari relations in all political, economic, and cultural fields.

At the conclusion of the visit, Shaykh Hamad ibn Suhaym Al Thani, under secretary of the Qatari Foreign Ministry, expressed gratitude and thanks to the Soviet leadership and friendly people for the hospitality accorded to him personally and to the delegation accompanying him.

Paper Praises Visit

JN0511160388 Manama WAKH in English 1510 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Manama Nov 5 (GNA)—A Qatari newspaper commented editorially today on the visit Qatar's Foreign Under Secretary Shaykh Hamad ibn Suhaym Al Thani paid to Moscow.

Arabic newspaper AL-SHARQ described the visit as a step forward along the way for consolidating relations between the two friendly states and enhancing international cooperation between them in a manner serving their joint stands concerning the various issues in the international arena.

"The visit achieved the cherished objectives in favour of serving the firm bases of the Qatari policy at the international level and establishing relations with others on the basis of equality which the United Nations Charter has ratified among its member states," the paper affirmed in a front page editorial.

The paper added that the visit was a good opportunity for exchanging views and consultations directly with the Soviet leaders, the matter which helped much to clarify viewpoints of the two sides concerning a set of issues of interest to the international community and for which all parties concerned have been seeking to reach appropriate solutions to help reinstate peace and stability all over the world.

Saudi Arabia

Oil Minister Attacks Media 'Campaigns' on Quotas

LD0511162288 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Nov (SPA)—Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Hisham Muhyi al-Din Nazir has made a statement to SPA in response to the allegations by some foreign newspapers and news agencies in the past 2 days that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia exceeds its oil output quota and has saturated the market.

In his statement to SPA today, his excellency the minister said that we are surprised over the determination of some foreign media to continue the campaigns of vilification and disinformation against the Kingdom in spite of all the clarifications and official statements issued by the Kingdom on its clear stance in confronting the imbalance that has recently emerged in the oil market. This imbalance is a result of the non adherence of some OPEC states to the resolutions issued by the organization in Geneva in December 1986 and to subsequent agreements specifying production shares and ceilings. He added:

Today we repeat that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would be the first state to respect its agreed quota on the condition that all OPEC states strictly adhere to their own quotas. We totally reject that the Kingdom should alone be required to adhere to its quota while others exceed their quotas, without specifying or accusing a particular state.

We will also not allow ourselves to be afflicted today by what happened 3 years ago when the Kingdom's output fell to its lowest level in the history of its oil production

as a result of its repeated sacrifices and continued adherence to its agreed quota, which harmed its principal source of income and, consequently, was reflected in its public budget. That will not be repeated.

Minister Hisham Nazir continued: The best proof of what we urged—regarding the need for all to adhere to their production quotas—is that the price of oil rose for a short time to $21 per barrel, that is when good will was shown in fixing a production ceiling and prices in 1987.

He concluded by saying: In spite of media vilification campaigns, we very much hope that the coming meeting of OPEC oil ministers will come up with clear and firm decisions specifying production quotas and ceilings and setting a higher price limit for 2 or 3 years, with strict monitoring of agreed production and quotas. This would help deal with the imbalance and bring about stability in the market, to the benefit of all.

French Defense Minister Chevenement Makes Visit

Arrives 5 Nov

LD0511132288 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1144 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 5 Nov (SPA)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement arrived in Riyadh at 1330 this afternoon on a visit to the Kingdom at the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector-general. The prince was in the forefront of those welcoming him at King Khalid International Airport. [passage omitted]

Meets With Counterpart

LD0511231488 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Nov (SPA)—This evening His Royal Highness Amir Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and defense minister, aviation and inspector general, received in his office His Excellency French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Amir 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy defense minister and aviation and inspector general, and senior officials at the Defense Ministry.

Sees Foreign Minister

LD0611114988 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh, 6 Nov (SPA)—Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met in his office this morning with His Excellency French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement. They discussed bilateral relations and ways to consolidate and strengthen them. The two sides examined international issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by His Excellency Jamil al-Hujaylan, Saudi ambassador to France; Ambassador Nizzar Ubayd Madani, head of the Western Department at the foreign ministry; Jacques Berniere French ambassador to the Kingdom; and the delegation accompanying his excellency the French defense minister.

Meets Other Officials

LD0611163188 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1413 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh 6 Nov, (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector-general, and French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement held a working session this afternoon at the Armed Forces officers' club in Riyadh.

The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy defense and aviation minister and inspector general; Prince Fahd ibn 'Abdallah ibn Muhammad assistant minister of defense and aviation for civilian air matters; 'Uthman al-Hamid, assistance minister of defense and aviation for military affairs; Lieutenant General Yusuf Abd al-Rahman al-Rashid acting chief of the general staff and commander of land forces; Jamil al-Hujaylan, the Kingdom's ambassador to France; and commanders of air, sea, and air defense forces.

On the French side, the meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying the French defense minister, and Jacques Rainier, France's ambassador to the Kingdom. At the end of the meeting, his Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his excellency the French defense minister exchanged souvenirs.

Holds News Conference

LD0711095788 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0030 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Excerpts] French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement described the relations between Saudi Arabia and France as long-standing amicable, and deep. [passage omitted]

The French defense minister then answered journalists' questions.

In reply to a question about the existence of an agreement with Prince Sultan to contract new deals, especially concerning the [word indistinct] deal number two, and whether it includes the sale of submarines to and construction of two bases in Saudi Arabia, he said that the sides are continuing talks on numerous issues, and France is ready to send the necessaary experts to Saudi Arabia to discuss these possibilities. Right now, he said, nothing can be confirmed about these deals, but if they are finalized, we may see results.

In reply to a question about supplying the Kingdom with armored vehicles, and a question on whether they have discussed the Kingdom's financing the development of Rafale aircraft in the same way it finances Crotale missiles, the French defense minister said that there are several fields of cooperation between France and Saudi Arabia, including armored vehicles and missiles. He added that it is well known that French industry has many abilities in these fields. After that it is up to the Saudi side to show its interest.

Concerning his talks with His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and senior Saudi officials, the French minister said that he favors making comprehensive contacts with all officials at the highest level. He added that he is carrying a message from the French president to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

In reply to a question about the exclusion of the international peace conference after the results of the Zionist elections—which led to the victory of Likud and extremist parties—the French defense minister stressed that the settlement of the conflict is not dependent on the results of the Israeli elections, which was, from the beginning, not conclusive. He pointed out that the result was the emergence of small minority parties.

He said that the result of these elections does not confirm a prominent advance of the Likud as some people might think. Also, the result does not change some starting points, such as the uprising in the ocucpied territories, the balance of the population—which will change in the future—and the responsibility of the superpowers to find a solution for this issue.

The minister pointed out that France has 13 warships in the region. He noted that France has withdrawn aircraft carrier Clemenceau 1 month after the actual cease-fire between Iraq and Iran on 20 August. He also pointed out that there are other French frigates and warships still in their positions in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

About the Palestinian uprising, the French view of it in particular and the Palestinian issue in general, the French defense minister pointed out that the uprising firmly indicates that the current situation cannot continue. He also said that France believes there is no solution without recognizing the Palestinians' right to their homeland and state. He said that France has always supported the rights of peoples to control their destiny.

In reply to a question about France's relations with the Arab Gulf states, and a question on whether contracts to sell arms to these states were concluded during his tour, he said that the French policy of the previous and current governments has always been characterized by clarity and continuity toward the region. He said there is also consistency in this policy, which was not affected by any change, and that there has not been a cooling relations in the recent period, as rumored. On the contrary, he said France has stood by the countries of the region and helped them restore peace and establish security, and France has always been the dependent and credible partner in this region of the world, as any objective observer can see.

He added that long-standing relations bind France and the states of the Arab Gulf, and that these were confirmed during President de Gaule's era. He added that because the French policy actually relies on independence, our principal interest is always to develop military industries, in addition to the fact that we know how to use the other potentials.

In reply to questions from journalists, the French minister of defense pointed out that his country had launched a satellite for civilian monitoring. He stressed that the satellite does not serve any military purpose; it is used in drawing maps. He said that he has visited a number of establishments that are engaged in this work and he emphasized that the Kingdom benefits from the photographs taken by the French satellite "Sport" [as received]. He said that the French satellite serves a number of civilian purposes, including climatology, agriculture, mineral exploration, and map drawing. He said that anyone who wants to can acquire the photographs transmitted by the "sport" satellite.

The French minister emphasized his country's concern to develop its space research to develop telecommunications on the one hand, and surveillance on the other.

Regarding whether there is a new French plan to extricate Lebanon from its current crisis, his excellency said that France is trying by every means to return peace and reconciliation to Lebanon. He pointed out that there are many ties between France and Lebanon and that there is French solidarity with Lebanon, which is confronting a painful predicament.

He pointed out that there are over 500 French soldiers serving in the UN forces in southern Lebanon.

In reply to a question on whether there is an attempt to renew the French initiative on the Middle East, the French minister said that his country has put forward just principles and that it is adhering to them. He said that France should make a unilateral move, to begin with, and a move within the context of the EEC to find a solution.

The news conference was attended by Jean Berniere, French ambassador in the Kingdom, and the delegation accompanying the French minister.

London Paper Interviews 'Aziz on Peace Talks

PM0411110688 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 31 Oct 88 pp 7-12

[Interview with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Fu'ad Matar in Baghdad; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [Matar] Just 2 days after Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz returned to Baghdad, I told him: There is a well known proverb in the al-Sham states [Syria, Lebanon, Jordan], which says "third time lucky." Minister, do you believe that the third round, which will begin in Geneva in a few days, will be the crucial round, or were the New York talks successful and is the return to Geneva merely a formality?

['Aziz] From the very outset through the last meeting in New York the Iraqi delegation's position was that the cease-fire agreement was incomplete, as its details were not agreed upon, especially with regard to the freedom of navigation and the clearing of Shatt al-'Arab.

A cease-fire was adopted, inasmuch as shelling and military operations ceased. Commitment to that issue is still a political and moral one. But it is not a legal commitment under an Iranian-Iraqi agreement sponsored by the UN secretary general. Iran insisted, and still does, on inspecting Iraqi ships. We are strongly opposed to this. We have very strong legal and political evidence which enables us to refute all pretexts.

Despite all this, Iran refuses to openly and clearly recognize Iraq's full and unrestricted right to navigation. And even when it agreed in one newspaper that it would suspend inspections, it added riders that are bound to restrict Iraqi shipping, especially military shipping, in international waters and the Strait of Hormuz—which would lead to the imposition of some kind of restriction on the movements of Iraqi warships which, like the other Gulf states' ships, are entitled to sail in international waters and the Strait in peace time.

The other point on which the Iranian position has not changed is the clearing of the Shatt al-'Arab. We demanded that the UN secretary general assume the task of clearing Shatt al-'Arab without affecting its legal status, which would be discussed at a later stage. But the Iranians rejected this and set the condition that the clearing of Shatt al-'Arab be carried out under the 1975 agreement. This means that they are setting preconditions for the Shatt al-'Arab clearing operation and seeking to exploit Iraq's need for the clearing of Shatt al-'Arab in order to pressure it into accepting the 1975 agreement.

Our position was that the cease-fire agreement is not the framework for discussing previous agreements between the two countries, and the the cease-fire simply means that the two parties are pledged to halt all military operations, which would inevitably restore the state of war. According to our proposal, the cease-fire process includes the clearing of Shatt al-'Arab. Our aim in including the clearing of Shatt al-'Arab in the cease-fire agreement was to preserve the operation from Iranian interference. [passage omitted]

[Matar] You must have read the statement of your counterpart, the Iranian foreign minister, in which he says that fundamental progress has not been achieved because the Iraqi delegation had no powers. What is your comment?

['Aziz] This is like turning the facts upside down. In Geneva neutral observers noted that the Iranian delegation was split into delegations, as it appeared confused and unable to define a position because of internal troubles and divisions among the factions struggling for power. The Iraqi delegation, on the other hand, was consistent. It had the powers customarily invested in delegations of this sort. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Probably this impression was caused by the method used by the Iranian delegation in raising certain issues, so it could be said that a minor change in its negotiating method would achieve the desired objective in terms of adopting a less complicated approach to negotiations.

['Aziz] There is an Iranian psychological method which we know well: They accuse others of something that actually applies to themselves. Perhaps the Iranian delegation's general conclusion was that it was confused and indecisive. This is why the Iranian delegation described the Iraqi delegation in terms that actually apply to itself. This is the Iranian method—now well known. In our view, the Iranian minister, for internal reasons, tried to give the impression that something had been achieved in New York. We personally have heard that he did so for reasons concerning his position and the balances among the ruling factions in Iran. [passage omitted]

[Matar] By the way, during your meeting with Shultz did you sense any possibility of change in the harsh U.S. position toward Iraq?

['Aziz] Actually my meeting with Shultz was friendly-.There was an understanding between us. The Americans expressed desire to preserve relations with Iraq and develop them in various fields. I expressed the same desire.

[Matar] Do you expect any steps in the direction you mention?

['Aziz] No major developments are likely during the remaining short period of the U.S. Administration's term. I believe what is required is to preserve the present situation until the picture is clear regarding the next U.S. president and the next U.S. administration succeeding the Reagan Administration. If George Bush is elected, the new administration will be largely similar to the present one. Some of the present members may also work with Bush. But if Dukakis wins, we will see a new administration and we will not be acquainted with its

members. On this basis the next stage will be one of mutual acquaintance to preserve the stances adopted and the issues understood by the present administration. [passage omitted]

[Matar] From your address to the General Assembly I gather that Iraq does not espouse the idea of considering the Algiers agreement invalid.

['Aziz] Maybe there was some confusion, but this was unintentional. Which remark caused you to assume that?

[Matar] It concerns the freedom of navigation. You said: "Iraq has proposed that the United Nations be entrusted with clearing Shatt al-'Arab to make it sound and safe for shipping, but without affecting the legal status of the waterway...". I inferred from this that the waterway should remain as it is, namely, according to the charts of the Algiers agreements.

['Aziz] In my UNGA speech I did not broach the Algiers agreement at all. This is because we have not yet raised this issue in negotiations. We raised the Algiers agreement issue in the media, but did not discuss it in the Geneva or New York negotiations because it was not on the agenda at that stage. The agenda was confined to one point, namely, the cease-fire agreement.

[Matar] Does this mean that the agreement can be a basis for negotiations?

['Aziz] We insist that the Algiers agreement is invalid. It is dead. The Iranians killed it 10 years ago. They cannot revive it now. [passage omitted]

[Matar] One striking aspect is the fact that the New York negotiation round and the coming rounds in Geneva are in response to a new Iraqi proposal, namely, the idea of diverting the Shatt al-'Arab waterway. Have foreign circles concerned themselves with this idea and did many of them try to ask you about it during your stay in New York?

['Aziz] Nobody asked me about it. However, this does not mean that the issue is not promoting interest. It has certainly attracted attention. One important point is that the issue is still under consideration. As far as the Iraqi leadership is concerned, it is a serious issue.

[Matar] Can it be considered a means of exerting pressure, especially as it has been raised when Iran is becoming increasingly intransigent with regard to shipping and clearing the Shatt al-'Arab? Or is the diversion aimed at settling the Algiers agreement issue, on the basis that the agreement concerns a particular waterway before the diversion?

['Aziz] It is not a means of exerting pressure. We are studying the issue in earnest. The issue will probably draw more attention when it moves from the study stage to the implementation stage.

[Matar] Assuming that the Iranians will rely on procrastination as a negotiating strategy or long-term political plan, will Iraq accept or tolerate it?

['Aziz] The Iranian danger in the military sense has been destroyed. Iran can no longer pose a military threat to Iraq, neither at present or in the future. The balance of military power has been decided in Iraq's favor, not temporarily, but strategically. Iran's aggressive and expansionist intentions have not yet ceased, however. The Iranian regime—which sparked the war and continued it for 8 years, acting against the Arab states of the region and against security and stability throughout the world—has still not changed. Khomeyni, Khamene'i, Rafsanjani, and others still lead the regime that sparked the war and issued threats to others.

We do not agree with the analysis that the Iranian regime has changed itself or its policies. The Iranian regime was forced to deal with reality. The Iranian regime has suffered complete military collapse. This is why it was forced to accept Resolution 598 and deal with the facts more realistically than before. But this does not mean that the regime has changed its substance or objective. That is why caution must be maintained, not only by Iraq but by the Arabs as well. Any Arab state that does not deal with Iran cautiously would be harming itself and the security and stability requirements of the region. The main reason the Iranians are incapable of settling negotiations is because they were actually forced to accept Resolution 598.

They did not accept it as a realization of a comprehensive and permanent peace settlement between Iraq and Iran in line with the position of Iraq, which accepted the resolution and understood its implications. In the past, Iraq has accepted other resolutions, regardless of the military balance. When Iraq accepted UN resolutions, it did so as a program for permanent peace with Iran. This is why we are ready to implement Resolution 598 as quickly as possible, because we have a complete awareness. Iran is both confused and hesitant. It is insisting on a cease-fire now because it is fundamentally important, the reason being its state of military collapse.

In this case, only a cease-fire can salvage it. Concentration now is on the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Iranian territory. I am not sure whether after this Iran will continue to implement the other clauses of the Security Council's resolution as enthusiastically as it is doing now with regard to Clause I which is in its tactical interests. As for Clause IV of the resolution, I believe Iran will not deal with it as one of the resolution's clauses aimed at achieving comprehensive and permanent peace between the two countries.

Furthermore, I am unsure of Iran's intentions regarding implementation of the clause on security and stability in the Gulf region: It could use this issue to divide the

countries of the region and impose a new kind of Iranian hegemony over the Gulf region, which would be an intolerable, aggressive approach. This is my assessment of the situation. The reason is that Iran still has not made a decision on a comprehensive and permanent peace settlement between itself and the countries of the region.

[Matar] In your UNGA address you hinted that Iraq knew the states and forces backing Iran. You issued a warning to those parties. Who are these states and forces, what are they doing, and what stand can you take against them?

['Aziz] When we were in Geneva we felt that some states were interfering with the negotiations by sending messages to the Iranian delegation expressing support. The essence of these messages is: Oh Iranians, we are here; we are ready to back you. In return, take our interests into account. We sensed this in Geneva and we know these states, but I will not name them now. However, I can say that we have warned these states about playing that game. We told them: If you want to establish relations with Iran, that is your business. But never exploit your political and economic relations with Iran in negotiations. I repeated the warning twice in my UNGA speech because those who are doing this know that we are aware of it. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Says Talks With Perez de Cuellar 'Cordial'

JN0411144788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 4 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has described his meeting with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, which lasted 90 minutes here today, as cordial and constructive.

In a statement to journalists following the meeting, 'Aziz said that the topics discussed at the meeting were the same topics that were discussed at the direct negotiations on the ministerial level. He added: We will continue discussing them. He stressed Iraq's desire to reach a lasting, comprehensive peace with Iran. He said: We do not want the cease-fire agreement that was reached on 20 August to turn into a temporary truce.

He added that Iraq also does not want its relations with Iran to turn into a political conflict to replace the military conflict. The foreign minister said that the basis of the Iraqi stand is the same as that on which the discussions are carried out. He said that the Iraqi delegation has dealt with the negotiations with good intentions and that it will continue its cooperation with the UN secretary general and his representative Jean Eliasson.

Attending the meeting on the Iraqi side was 'Ismat Kittani, member of the Iraqi delegation to the negotiations; and on the UN side was Jean Eliasson.

Sirus Naseri, member of the Iranian delegation, attended the meeting which 'Ali Akbar Velayati held with Javier Perez de Cuellar and Jean Eliasson today.

On the other hand, the prospects for holding the third expanded meeting on the ministerial level are still there. However, they need an official confirmation by the official UN spokesman. This meeting is scheduled for 1630 today.

Further on Peace Talks With Iran in Geneva

Ministerial Meeting Postponed

JN0411151988 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 4, INA—The UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced the postponement of the ministerial meeting between the Iraqi and Iranian delegation—scheduled to be held here this afternoon to Saturday morning.

Mr. de Cuellar described, in a brief statement to journalists in the wake of ending his separate meetings with Mr. Tariq 'Aziz deputy premier and foreign minister and the Iranian foreign minister, as "very useful". [sentence as received]

He said that he would enter in detailed work with the two teams to negotiations in order to evaluate the results that had been reached up till then. Mr. de Cuellar referred that joint meeting would be held between 10:30 and 11:00 A.M. tomorrow morning.

On the other hand, an Iraqi technical delegation holds today working talks with representatives from the International Community of the Red Cross at the committee's headquarters in Geneva to discuss the matters concerning the subject of exchanging prisoners of the Iraq-Iran war.

Iran Criticized on POW's

JN0411193788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 4 Nov (INA)—The technical Iraqi delegation led by Riyad al-Qaysi, member of the Iraqi delegation to the direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran, today met with Andre Baski [name as received], director of the operations of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC].

Following the meeting which lasted 2 hours and 40 minutes, Al-Qaysi told journalists that the talks were fruitful and that the delegation discussed several topics. He strongly criticized the Iranian side's refusal to abide by the 1949 Geneva Convention regarding the exchange of POW's. He said that the Iranian Government still rejects the ICRC call. He said that there is nothing new that could be considered a positive Iranian stand despite

the fact that the Iranian foreign minister said that they have responded to this call. He added that what Velayati said does not represent the truth.

Answering a question on whether Iraq is ready to exchange the wounded and sick POW's with Iran, the head of the technical delegation said: Since Iraq has expressed its readiness to begin a comprehensive and full exchange of all POW's, then it is natural to agree on the exchange of all the wounded and sick POW's.

Al-Qaysi expressed Iraq's readiness, as usual, to implement every word and letter of the Geneva convention on the exchange of POW's if Iran follows suit. He said: However, Iran has so far rejected the ICRC call, and what Velayati told you was untrue. He added that Iran seeks to turn the exchange of POW's into a political issue, and to link the POW's issue with issues and considerations that are completely removed from the Geneva convention.

He said: If we examine the 1949 Geneva Convention, we will find a statement calling for the exchange of POW's immediately after ending military operations. The Iranian foreign minister has come up with strange ideas when he said that the stopping of military operations does not only mean a cease-fire, but it also includes the withdrawal of forces.

Al-Qaysi added: By refusing to abide by the Geneva convention, the Iranians have not only violated humanitarian issues, but also the legal obligations stipulated by the convention.

Regarding the nature of talks the technical delegation held with Andre Baski, he said that they dealt with the means of reaching a comprehensive solution to the POW's issue, and of how to make Iran abide by the clauses of the convention.

3d Round of Talks Begin

JN0511153188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 5 Nov (INA)—At 1440, Geneva time, today, the meetings of the third round of direct Iraq-Iran talks began on the ministerial level in the presence of the UN secretary general.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, is heading the Iraqi side; while the Iranian side is led by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The third expanded round of talks concluded at exactly 1700 hours, Geneva time, after continuing for 70 minutes.

Therese Gastaut, the official in charge of the UN information bureau, said that the three delegations sat together at the conference hall for 10 minutes to have tea and refreshments after the conclusion of the session's meetings.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was the first to leave the Palais des Nations. He voiced hope over the possibility of reaching an agreement on the issues being discussed at the current Geneva negotiations. However, he said that this depends on two parties, not only one. In a statement to reporters upon his departure from the Palais des Nations, he described today's meeting as "useful". He added that a fourth joint ministerial session will be held under the chairmanship of Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's representative, at 1600 hours on Monday, the day after tomorrow, as Javier Perez de Cuellar will have left Geneva by that time.

The deputy prime minister affirmed the Iraqi delegation will cooperate with the UN secretary general's representative displaying seriousness and sincerity, just as it cooperated with Javier Perez de Cuellar himself.

In reply to a question on the results of today's meeting, Tariq 'Aziz said: We should not talk about the results at this phase. However, I can say that the meeting was useful. The foreign minister voiced thanks to Javier Perez de Cuellar and said: For 1 whole week he demonstrated serious efforts and contributed great endeavors to facilitate the flow of negotiations.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced that the negotiations will continue under the supervision of his representative Jan Eliasson and that he will be in constant touch with him on the progress of the negotiations. In a prepared text read to reporters, Javier Perez de Cuellar added that he asked Eliasson to submit to him a report on the progress of the negotiations in New York before 16 November. He continued: I expect a joint expanded ministerial session to be held at 1600 hours on Monday, the day after tomorrow.

IDF Attacks 'Terrorist' Base in South Lebanon

TA0611155188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Air Force planes this afternoon attacked a terrorist base in South Lebanon. All our planes returned safely and the target was destroyed. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the target is located in the area of Sidon. It served as a launching pad for attacks and a storage site for weapons.

Air Force 'Considering' Attack on Syrian Plant

JN0511082888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0656 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Nov (WAKH)—Press reports said here today that the Israeli Air Force was considering dealing a blow to a Syrian chemical plant, on which construction recently began near Damascus, prior to the recent Israeli elections.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published in Abu Dhabi cites Western diplomatic and military sources in London as saying that as soon as the U.S. Administration received information in this regard it urged the Israeli leadership to refrain from this military action against Syria due to the grave military escalation it may lead to in the region.

These sources added that the Israeli leadership seems to be determined to launch air raids on the Syrian plant soon.

Shamir Willing To Discuss Alignment Coalition

TA0511211988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] It has been announced by the Prime Minister's Office this evening that if the Alignment were to approach him, Mr Yitzhaq Shamir would be willing to discuss the possibility of establishing a broad-based government with the participation of the Alignment.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the announcement was made in the wake of Minister Rabin's remarks that under certain conditions he would not rule out participation in a broad-based government that would enable the Labor Party to implement its ideas. Other sources in the Likud have said that for the moment, one should wait and see how internal developments work out in the Alignment.

Tzomet To Join Likud Coalition; Talks Continue

TA0711081388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan says that his party has categorically decided to join a Likud-led coalition and this is what it will inform the president of the state this week. In an interview this morning, Refa'el Eytan said that Tzomet decided not to go with the Alignment because of the political gap over issues such as Eretz Yisra'el and territorial compromise. As for his attitude toward demands by the religious parties, Eytan said that the demands of the orthodox parties are the same for both Likud and Alignment. There is no difference between them in this respect.

The president of the state is beginning consultations this morning with representatives of the various parties in preparation for the establishment of a new government. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the first delegation to be invited to the president is the Likud's, led by Deputy Minister Roni Milo. This delegation will be followed by the Alignment delegation. Knesset Member Rafi Edri, the head of the Alignment Knesset faction, called for an initial meeting of the new Alignment Knesset faction to choose the delegation.

Our correspondent notes that the president's office has allocated time for consultations with the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] members, but the meeting may be put off until SHAS decides who to recommend to the president as the person who should be entrusted with forming the next government.

Minister Ari'el Sharon promised SHAS' leaders yesterday that he will personally see to that that the Likud honors past commitments made to this party. Our correspondent notes it is not clear whether the SHAS representatives were convinced by this.

National Religious Party representatives proposed that the prime minister initiate an appeal to the Alignment to join a broad-based Likud-led government. They suggested that the Alignment's participation be on the basis of direct peace negotiations and a continuation of the settlement drive throughout Eretz Yisra'el. Yitzhaq Shamir responded he would consider the proposal positively since he wants a broad-based government.

Ministers Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin met for a talk yesterday to clear matters between them. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that the talk was a tete-a-tete, held just before the Cabinet meeting. In the talk Peres and Rabin discussed the tension developing between them in the wake of the commentary on the effect of the Jericho bus disaster on the election results [some Alignment members have said this caused their party a loss of several Knesset seats], as well as the continuation of the coalition contacts. Our correspondent has been told that the misunderstandings between the two were removed in the course of the talk.

Shamir Interviewed on Coalition Talks

TA0511090788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami on 4 November, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, as soon as the results of the elections came in on Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning you told me that your initial reaction was that the task of forming the coalition would be

complex. Now, 2 or 3 days into that process, it appears to be complex indeed.

[Shamir] That is true. Although we are only at the initial stage of our contacts with all the components of the coalition, the talks have been and will be conducted intensively because I believe it is necessary to form a government as soon as possible. Certainly this will be no easy or simple task, but we will have a government.

[Ben-'Ami] You must be aware of the obvious fact that the ultraorthodox factor among the religious Knesset members [MK's] has grown.

[Shamir] There is a certain measure of exaggeration in how these statistics are presented. While it is true that the religious parties currently constitute exactly 15 percent of the Knesset quorum, such things have happened before. I do not regard it as a crucial or revolutionary change, as some media elements are trying to portray it when they claim that we are witnessing a fundamentalist invasion of Israel or something to that effect. I foresee no radical or outstanding changes in our lives. Everyone will be able to continue to live as before.

Naturally, the religious parties demand changes. Actually these are not requests for changes; these are demands in areas that they deem important. Basically, their demands center on what is known as the prevailing status quo. In other words, introducing no changes in the existing state of affairs. We support that.

[Ben-'Ami] The question, however, is whether you will indeed insist on maintaining the status quo as it is, or if they will apply great pressure to effect changes in what we call religious legislation?

[Shamir] Of course one can always interpret things in different ways. If that happens, we will make sure that nothing exceeds the bounds of sound reason and logic. I have held private talks with representatives of these parties beyond the formal negotiations and I understand that these parties, too, are not interested in provoking a sharp public reaction. They see their demands as quite normal, certainly not as anything out of the ordinary.

[Ben-'Ami] That is quite understandable. Nevertheless, the question is how the large segment of Jews in the United States will regard the passing of the amendment to the Who Is a Jew law. Incidentally, we have already heard Rabbi Alexander Schindler's reaction to that possibility.

[Shamir] But we have always seen such reactions! Every Knesset vote on religious issues always triggers a lot of commotion in the U.S. Jewish community. I believe that the reports on the extent of that uproar are largely overrated. Nonetheless, we take the implications of this matter on U.S. Jewry into consideration. I believe we will find an understanding with that community as well.

[Ben-'Ami] Let me rephrase the question: Do you believe that the 12th Knesset will pass the amendment to the Who Is a Jew law?

[Shamir] That depends on the MK's. If there are now more MK's leaning toward supporting such an amendment, the chances that it will be passed obviously grow. At the same time, however, it is inconceivable that the MK's views would not be reflected in the House. After all, that is why they were elected to the Knesset. What has happened here now is that existing trends in the public were given legitimate representation. Any proposal that wins a Knesset majority will pass. As to whether one law or another will enjoy a majority, that I do not know. Let us see what happens in the Knesset.

[Ben-'Ami] I would like to examine yet another aspect of the new situation that has been created. It seems that your new government will include ultraorthodox ministers, certainly more than just one or two of them. Some people ask how, when the Cabinet discusses defense issues, the decisions will be made by men whose supporters sometimes do not serve in the army. Sometimes these men themselves do not serve in the army, or else they object to army service.

[Shamir] First of all, no one objects to army service. Certain religious circles maintain that yeshiva students who study the Torah and make it the center of their lives, an art, should be granted a deferral for a certain period of time. No one objects to young people in Israel serving their duty to the Israeli army, the IDF. Besides, to date no one has suggested that representatives of parties who advocate such a stand be deprived of their right to vote on defense matters either in the Knesset or in the Cabinet. From that point of view, the Knesset and the Cabinet are in the same category.

Thus, Agudat Yisra'el—if they are indeed whom you have in mind—and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] members are in the Knesset and have representatives sitting on the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and in the Finance Committee. There is no difference between their rights in the Knesset and those they can enjoy in the Cabinet. Those who sit in the Knesset have a right to sit in the government too.

[Ben-'Ami] Still, their proportionate weight in the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee was far smaller than the power they may have in the future government.

[Shamir] That depends on the vote. No one can prevent those chosen by the public from occupying positions in the state's elected institutions.

[Ben-'Ami] With your background in the security services, and in view of your overall defense outlook, will you feel comfortable with that?

[Shamir] That is not the issue. As a rule, I believe that every Israeli youngster should definitely fulfill their elementary duty, that of serving in the army. I am not

responsible for the current state of affairs in this respect. I never started it. We came to a given situation. I have not seen that those who object to this situation ever tried to change it, and by this I mean the Alignment people.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, one other component in the structuring of this government is what we call the rightist bloc. We know that in the meetings you and the Likud's ministerial team held with Tehiya and Tzomet members, you emphasized that you and the Likud are totally committed to the Camp David accords. The Tehiya, Tzomet, and National Religious Party people claim, however, that the autonomy clause included in the Camp David agreements means the stifling of the settlement momentum. How will you bridge this gap in your views?

[Shamir] Everyone is entitled to their own opinion. We made it absolutely clear that we are committed to the Camp David accords and will act accordingly. This will be the shape of the government which we will head. I do not think that the members of other parties go so far as to believe that the Likud's position would prevent them from joining the government. I do not believe the gap is all that wide. At any rate, we will not budge from our positions on this matter.

[Ben-'Ami] Then let me ask you about pressure from another direction: Will the establishment of this government herald the resumption of the settlement momentum?

[Shamir] Certainly there will be a settlement drive. We see no reason why the settlement drive should be stemmed. Even the outgoing government did not clamp down on that drive; on the contrary, it has intensified. I grant you that perhaps not many new settlements were established, but many settlers joined the existing settlements in those areas during its term. In fact, the number of settlers actually counts more than the number of settlements. Nonetheless, I see no reason why the new government should not establish a few new settlements during its tenure.

[Ben-'Ami] Financial difficulties have been mentioned in connection with the establishment of these settlements.

[Shamir] Budgetary problems have always been a constraint on everything, including this sphere.

[Ben-'Ami] Incidentally, I have heard that there is readiness, perhaps preparations, to establish these settlements during the government-ad-interim's term.

[Shamir] I do not think this talk is serious, as the establishment of a new settlement should not be regarded as a demonstrative move. It is a very serious matter.

[Ben-'Ami] Having completed our tour d'horizon of the possible gaps between the positions of the Likud and its partners on the right, and having surveyed the problems with the religious parties, do you still believe that it is possible under such circumstances to set up a strong, stable government that will consolidate a homogenous policy?

[Shamir] I am convinced that it possible and attainable. Yet, as everyone has known for a long time, I have always favored as broad a base for the government as possible. Only a broad-based government could make the greatest achievements in the vital areas, both in terms of defense and in the economy. Even if at the moment this is unattainable because our partner to the unity government, namely the Alignment, has broken our agreement, I have not given up on the possibility of this coming about at some point in the future.

[Ben-'Ami] Some people who are known as your associates have been quoted as saying that if the Alignment had been headed by Yitzhaq Rabin, you would have found the situation easier.

[Shamir] I never said that.

[Ben-'Ami] How do you react to such a statement?

[Shamir] I do not think I am entitled to interfere in the composition of another party's leadership. I can, however, express my opinion on the political path of that party and say that I do not think it is the best. If the Alignment pursues the path it preached during the election campaign and even before then, I can foresee no possibility that we could sit together in a national unity government.

[Ben-'Ami] Now only the question of in-house politics remains: How do you plan to divide the portfolios among the Likud ministers?

[Shamir] This problem always crops up when it is time to form a new government, and it must be solved.

[Ben-'Ami] Is it true that Moshe Arens has already been promised the defense portfolio?

[Shamir] I never promised anyone anything.

[Ben-'Ami] You must nevertheless be aware of the sensitivities and demands of each one of your colleagues?

[Shamir] Of course I am aware of them, but I am more aware of the country's needs.

[Ben-'Ami] In the final analysis, now, when you can conjure up a nearly-complete picture of the Cabinet or the next coalition, and 4 days after the elections, could you say that this is what you were hoping for?

[Shamir] I took such a possibility into account. Of course I sought a better outcome. One always wants something better. Still, I believe that even these results mark an important Likud achievement.

[Ben-'Ami] Thank you very much, sir.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Peres: Joint Government with Likud 'Impossible'
TA0411125388 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Nov 88 pp 1, 6

["Exclusive" interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Orli Azulay-Katz; place and date not given]

[Text] "From the Labor Party's point of view, it might not be a bad thing to go into opposition, but from a national point of view it is very bad. I am not interested in the country deteriorating into such a situation," Shim'on Peres said in an exclusive interview to YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

Peres continued: "We will not join any government that does not adopt a peace process. Our problem is the survival of the peace process and not participation in any government."

In reply to a question on how he sums up the election results from the Labor Party's point of view, Peres said: "We should look at the figures. The Alignment and MAPAM received 32.6 percent in these elections, compared with 34.9 percent in the previous ones; that means a loss of 2.3 percent. Of that, the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] increased its strength by 1.8 percent, and Darawshah got one seat.

"The situation in the Likud is different. It had an absolute loss. It went from 31.9 percent down to 30.7 percent, which constitutes a 1.2-percent drop, and Tehiya lost 1.2 percent. The surprise in these elections was the significant gains of the religious parties."

[Azulay-Katz] In your view, what led to the Alignment's defeat in the elections?

[Peres] We went to the polls with a clear message calling for political negotiations, but under the tough conditions of the intifada [uprising]. The firebomb in Jericho cost us between two and three seats. We conducted a civilized and focused campaign that was not centered around one person or one issue. Our campaign was directed at the floating vote, and had it not been for the firebomb we would have garnered another three seats.

[Azulay-Katz] Were you surprised by the results?

[Peres] A myth that is difficult to fight was created over the past 10 years. It is the myth that we can do everything: annex the territories, get rid of the Arabs, implement a transfer; that the only way to deal with the Arabs is by force, that the Americans will help us no matter what, and that autonomy can apply only to people and not land—all nonsense. The Likud, among others, propagated the myth that we can stand up to the whole world and that were it not for the peace camp's interference, everything could be worked out.

The myth will now be challenged by reality, not by us. From the opposition it looks like a reality, but now they will have to prove that it is feasible. They will have to prove that it is possible to rule over 1.5 million Arabs, put down the intifada in a single day, cut inflation, and that we can start talking about annexation. Following Camp David there was a period of indulgence toward Israel. Now we will be forced into a confrontation. The Likud is prepared to concede everything to the religious parties. The Likud will concede to them, and the only bargaining will be over portfolios. I also told the religious bloc that with an extremist right-wing government, we will have to fight half the world.

[Azulay-Katz] Were you shocked by the election results?

[Peres] Yes. There were big surprises. The unexpected gains of the ultraorthodox camp. All the rabbis on the other side of the ocean intervened in these elections. The Likud once claimed that U.S. Jewry does not have the right to intervene in the Israeli elections. Now, the Lubavitche Rebbe gave direct orders about whom to vote for, and suddenly Shamir does not have a thing to say on the matter.

[Azulay-Katz] There are those among us who are calling on the two large parties to stop the negotiations with the small parties and set up a joint government.

[Peres] People who say that are not realistic. It is impossible. Shamir and the Likud will not give up the chance to set up an alliance with the religious.

[Azulay-Katz] In which direction is the Labor Party going now?

[Peres] We are checking the possibility of setting up a coalition with part of the ultraorthodox bloc. In fact, it is easier for us than for the Likud, because our Zionist camp has 46 seats, while the Likud camp has only 44, of which one, Rafa'el Eytan, has already declared that he is not prepared to be tied by coalition discipline on religious matters. The Likud will also have another problem because SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], the National Religious Party [NRP], and Agudat Yisra'el all want the same portfolios: interior, education, and religious affairs.

[Azulay-Katz] But the leftist parties have already called for a stop to the degrading contacts with the religious.

[Peres] I am not degrading myself. I tell the religious that the main issue is the continuation of the peace process. If there will not be peace, there will be a terrible deterioration. The issue is not that I am prepared for just any way to set up a government; I am looking for a way to set up peace negotiations.

[Azulay-Katz] Do you see any chance for the formation of an Alignment government with the ultraorthodox and the left?

[Peres] I am not prepared to guess. We will talk again after the completion of the process.

[Azulay-Katz] What if this move fails?

[Peres] If we do not succeed, we will go into opposition. From the party's point of view this might not be bad, but from the national point of view, it is very bad. I do not want the country to deteriorate into such a situation. I see the people's fear of what is going to happen. The problem I see is: what is good for the country? It is my duty to take steps so that this deterioration does not occur. It is our Eretz Yisra'el. We do not have another country, even if the Likud shouts 'go home'.

[Azulay-Katz] There are voices being shouted at you now from your own party: Go home....

[Peres] Yes, well-known and well-loved voices.

[Azulay-Katz] Will you be the leader of the opposition?

[Peres] Yes. I do not have to be reelected every day. I was elected to head the movement and I will fulfill my post without any second thoughts.

[Azulay-Katz] Are you satisfied with the Alignment's management of the election campaign?

[Peres] It was a very well-managed election campaign. There was a telephone campaign and a campaign to find the undecided and floating votes. Strategically, it was an exceptional election campaign. I am not saying there were no mistakes.

[Azulay-Katz] Alignment ministers claim that you did not let them participate in the decisionmaking. Why did you not hear their views?

[Peres] Each week there was a steering committee meeting which included all the ministers. They could make their views heard without interference. Why did they not speak out? Why did we not hear them?

[Azulay-Katz] What is your reply to those in the party who call on you to pay the price for the election campaign's failure?

[Peres] Who said that? What did they say? Minister Tzur complains about the handling of the election campaign. He did not make any proposals; I heard him on television. Minister Shahal telephoned me and denied remarks attributed to him. If there is a revolt, we should see the rebels. In addition, the press is also looking for a salary.

[Azulay-Katz] Do you intend to draw personal conclusions?

[Peres] I do not think there was any individual failure in the election campaign. Colleagues worked exceptionally well: Weizman, Bar'am, Zvili, Avraham Shohat, and a long list of other colleagues. I think I operated very satisfactorily. I fulfilled my tasks under very difficult conditions. Whoever thinks there is another way, a better way, let us hear it. I heard only praise for this election campaign, for the media election advertising, the organization, the propaganda, and I do not think there was a personal failure.

[Azulay-Katz] Do you think you were wronged by the criticism hurled at you?

[Peres] I do not have complaints about anybody, not even about those who criticize me. It is a democratic party. I have a job, and I cannot take time off each day to concentrate on each piece of criticism. One day I will respond to the critics and continue to fulfill my tasks without hesitation.

[Azulay-Katz] Did you ever think of resigning?

[Peres] I do not think I have to publicize every single thought. I never thought of making such a declaration.

Rabin, Peres Disagree on Jericho Tragedy Impact

TA0411190488 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated this evening that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' allegations that the Alignment had lost two to three Knesset seats due to the terrorist attack in Jericho are basically wrong and totally unfounded. In a communique released this evening, the defense minister added that any attempt to link the outcome of the elections to the tragedy in Jericho is wrong, and noted that the Labor Party leadership and members would be well advised to look into the real reasons for the outcome of the elections. The defense minister stated that this communique does not herald the beginning of a power struggle between the two leaders of the Labor Party. According to the defense minister, the communique is meant to throw a light on the facts.

In response, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told our correspondent this evening that he discussed the issue with the defense minister, who had indeed told him that he disagrees. The foreign minister noted that the fact that

the tragedy in Jericho had affected the outcome of the elections was the assessment of pollsters, not his own. Mr Peres emphasized that Arabs engaging in acts of sabotage and terrorism against Israel are the ones kindling the flames of fanaticism.

Rabin, Moda'i, Peretz Discuss Coalition Talks

TA0511210288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Report by party affairs correspondent Hayim 'Azran and program moderator David Witzthum—live]

[Excerpts] ['Azran] The political establishment will focus its efforts this week on two issues: the ongoing coalition negotiations between the Likud, the small right-wing parties, and the religious parties, and the direction in which the Labor Party is headed. Tomorrow the Council of Torah Sages will decide whom to recommend to the president of the state; a senior source has told me that at the moment an internal struggle is going on in SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and there is a tendency to give the Alignment the first option.

In the Alignment, calls have been increasing to conduct an in-house review. Senior members have called for dropping the negotiations with the religious parties and going into opposition in order to rebuild the ranks, as they put it, and wait for a propitious time to return to power. In internal Alignment meetings, views have been expressed in favor of joining a broad-based government with the Likud for a predetermined period of time, and then proceed to hold elections. The initiators of the new party line see Yitzhaq Rabin as the man able to lead the Alignment and make a new move at this time, seeing that he is more popular—so they think—than Shim'on Peres, at least with the Likud. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is with me in the studio. Good evening to you, sir.

[Rabin] Good evening.

['Azran] My first question is: You said it would be wrong to link the outcome of the Knesset results, at least as far as the Alignment is concerned, to the terrorist attack on the bus in Jericho; you added that the party leaders had better look into the real reasons. Are these reasons the personal election campaign Shim'on Peres ran for himself, or are there any other reasons?

[Rabin] I am here as a member of the Labor Party and as a man who believes in its ideological way. We must must look into those reasons, but I will not do that here in a superficial manner. The communique I issued last night was meant to do away with the foolish attempt to blame the outcome of the elections on the tragedy in Jericho. A proper analysis is called for, but I will not elaborate.

The main problem the Labor Party must tackle now is to review those results in view of our expectations, some of which were exaggerated and were fostered without any political control by professional elements.

['Azran] Were you misled intentionally or was it a case of negligence?

[Rabin] I do not want to go into that. Even results such as these enable the Labor Party to adhere to the positions it presented to the electorate. In my opinion, instead of looking for an alibi in the Jericho tragedy, people should carry out a review on the one hand, and exhaust the possibilities of making good on our promises to the voters on the other.

['Azran] I would nevertheless like to ask you: In the present circumstances, would you be willing to go for a broad-based government with the Likud?

[Rabin] Look, I believe the first thing we should do is pursue the negotiations with the parties to our left—the Citizens Rights Movement, MAPAM, Center-Shinuy—and those with the religious parties, based on the understanding that they will give us maneuvering space to promote the political process and preserve the country's security while we will comply with their religious demands, up to a certain limit. Failing that, we have plenty of time to go into the opposition. We were in the opposition 7 years, and I did not see that those 7 years led to a significant rehabilitation of the Labor Party.

Moreover, a right-wing-religious coalition will bring upon the country very serious developments, and we do not have a spare country. This is not a car where you can use the spare wheel to replace a flat tire. Therefore, with national responsibility in mind, after exhausting the possibilities of setting up an Alignment-led government, and under certain conditions, I do not rule out the establishment of a broad-based government which would enable us attain our main objectives in the political-security sphere.

['Azran] Mr Rabin, the last question: Do you think Mr Peres should lead the party, or should another person perhaps be sought? If pressure were exerted on you, perhaps you would be prepared to lead the Alignment.

[Rabin] I will not deal with personal matters at the moment.

['Azran] We should add that senior Likud ministers have been heard to demand key portfolios. Although the demands have not been uttered in official talks, this is how the situation looks at present: Minister Moshe Arens wants the job of defense minister; Ministers Ari'el Sharon and David Levi want the job of foreign minister; the battle over the Finance Minister will apparently be waged by Ministers Moshe Nisim and Yitzhaq Moda'i, who is currently in our Jerusalem studio.

Demands have also been made by key Likud members who see themselves as qualified to be ministers, such as Knesset Member [MK] David Magen who wants to be

agriculture minister, MK Ehud Olmert, Deputy Minister Roni Milo, and MK Dan Meridor. Hence, the job of forming the government will apparently be a complicated and complex one.

The prime minister has said that he will not discuss the assignment of portfolios until he has concluded the negotiations with the religious parties, but this has not stopped senior ministers and others from voicing their demands and views to the prime minister, even if not in face-to-face meetings. One must bear in mind that any ministers chosen must meet the approval of the Likud Central Committee, and past experience shows that Central Committee sessions could bring some surprises. David Witzthum and Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i are in the studio in Jerusalem.

[Witzthum] Good evening, Mr Moda'i.

[Moda'i] Good evening.

[Witzthum] Will you be the finance minister?

[Moda'i] I assume that the man who will form the next government, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, will offer me the finance portfolio since he knows that the original program I began implementing—that is, curbing inflation, stabilizing the economy, and bringing about economic growth—must be completed.

['Azran] Mr Moda'i, Moshe Nisim is considered a successful finance minister by the Likud. Why do you think he should be replaced?

[Moda'i] I will not discuss Minister Nisim. All I can say is that he himself announced at the time that he was accepting the finance portfolio as a deposit; I will not mention other promises he has made. In any event, one thing is clear: It would be very bizarre if a government led by the Likud and Yitzhaq Shamir were to continue the boycott imposed by Shimon Peres on Yitzhaq Moda'i as finance minister; that is simply inconceivable. [passage omitted]

['Azran] We would like to add that during the negotiations with the Likud, the religious parties have submitted their list of demands for religious legislation as a prerequisite for participating in a Likud-led coalition. I have learned that this time SHAS will demand a strict timetable for the legislation of religious laws. As Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz told us, those demands would be presented as an ultimatum. [passage omitted]

['Azran] Speaking purely from the political-partisan point of view, could you be part of the government without an agreement on the legislation of religious laws?

[Peretz] We could not take part in the government if those demands were not accepted.

Sharon Outlines Stand on Defense Portfolio

TA0511105488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0905 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by Yosi 'Abadi on 5 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abadi] Shalom, Minister Ari'el Sharon.

[Sharon] Shalom.

['Abadi] When we next interview you in a few weeks or months, with what title should we address you?

[Sharon] I do not know. I do, however, believe I know what is important that I do now. But, of course, determining the different individuals' role in the government is the prime minister's prerogative. To the best of my knowledge, he has not yet embarked on this task.

['Abadi] What would you like to do now?

[Sharon] I think that what I should do now is serve as defense minister, regardless of whether I currently like or dislike the job. The position, after all, has almost always been thankless, and such has been its reflection on the holder of that portfolio. Perhaps, if the security situation had been different, I would have preferred to run the Finance or Foreign Affairs ministries. Right now I feel the moral obligation to deal with a job which I believe, under the current circumstances, I can handle in the best way.

['Abadi] Do you not see a problem in your being appointed defense minister in view of the way you left the post last time, following the recommendations of the Kahan Commission?

[Sharon] No. I did not leave my post because I failed in my job or because someone else was more adept at handling security matters. I left my job because of what Christians did to Muslims in Lebanon. It had nothing to do with the respect I commanded for my ability to execute my duties. The fact that Christians murdered Muslims in Beirut does not diminish my understanding of security matters, and it certainly gives no other person a better understanding or capability to discharge that job.

['Abadi] But, as will be recalled, it was a state commission of inquiry that determined that you were responsible for what happened there. It therefore ruled that you could not fulfill the role of defense minister.

[Sharon] The commission stated only one thing: That, first of all, no Israeli soldier, commander, or political figure was involved in what had happened. Contrary to the testimony given by all the witnesses that appeared

before it—and they numbered dozens of people, including many experts—the commission found that I could have predicted such a thing. That was the only thing that the commission found. No more. It referred to a specific, clearly-defined incident.

Unfortunately, our security situation is deteriorating daily. We have completely failed, for close to a year, to eliminate violence, terrorism, and rioting. Israel has suffered very serious political damage and its image has been tarnished. Perhaps the most serious danger to Israel is the erosion in the concept of Israel's deterrent capability, the fear of Israel, which constituted a central factor in our national defense theory.

['Abadi] If you are appointed defense minister, how will you handle the problem of the uprising in the territories?

[Sharon] In this respect, it is necessary to deal with the matter on three levels. One is the political level, but not in the terms that are currently being used, regretfully, even by army personnel, namely that the only solution is a political solution. It would have been better, of course, for them to deal with operational matters. Nevertheless, the problem does have its political aspect, and it requires the following steps to be taken: First, that we cease talking about an Israeli withdrawal and that we stop talking about Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza as a liability; second, that we stop creating the impression that with slightly more pressure, Israel will withdraw from these areas.

One must understand that first of all this is bad in any negotiations, and in our case it is even worse because such talk about liabilities, difficulties, or the need to withdraw leads to more Molotov cocktails, hand grenades, stone throwings, and riots. This is one side of the political angle.

There is, however, also another side. It is necessary that we explain in unambiguous terms that in whatever political arrangement is reached, the IDF and the other Israeli security forces will still be deployed and will operate freely throughout Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Which is to say that whatever the political settlement, the defense aspect will always remain in our hands.

Secondly, we must make sure that the leaders of the riots and terrorism, namely the PLO's political arm, which still operates almost freely particularly in East Jerusalem, cease operating. What we have here is a political-operational leadership. Yet it is not the only leadership active in Jerusalem. The Israeli Knesset and its committees are also in Jerusalem, and the House must pass legislation that will make provisions for handling that arm which is pulling the strings behind the present riots, violence, and terrorism.

['Abadi] Do you mean more deportations?

[Sharon] It is necessary to examine the various steps very carefully. In any case, it is inconceivable that the modes of expression continue to appear calling for subversiveness, instigation, for attacks on and the killing of Jews. It is inconceivable that funds should continue to flow in, as they do now. It is likewise inconceivable that these bodies should continue to operate unimpeded in East Jerusalem, regarding it as the safest place for them to operate from.

At the same time, one more thing is necessary: We must bring about a situation in which the humiliation of the IDF soldier is terminated. We must give the soldiers and the other members of the security forces operating in the territories legal support, in accordance with international law, to allow them to act freely. We have excellent security forces, but they enjoy no backing, they are disgraced. They should be given legal support.

One more thing is...

['Abadi, interrupting] What is the practical implication of what you have just said?

[Sharon] I mean carefully considered legislation, in accordance with international law, allowing the soldiers to operate and giving them the opportunity to curtail the kind of activity we are currently seeing in the area.

['Abadi] Do you mean shooting at stonethrowers?

[Sharon] I do not wish to go into detail at this juncture and tell you precisely what should be done. Still, a stone can also be a lethal weapon. Nevertheless, let me not go into that at the moment. I suggest that we do that in the Knesset, which can pass its legislation in accordance with international law.

That, however, is not enough. There exists, of course, also the operational aspect. We must take unexpected measures. I believe we should deploy a more limited force and try, as far as we can, to refrain from calling up reservists for those duties. We must come up with new, special, uncommon initiatives to deliver to the terrorists, their lackeys, and the rioters new messages every day, and face them with a dilemma in regard to predicting the venue, the method, and the modes of operation we will choose. I have in the past implemented what I am preaching to you, and I succeeded.

['Abadi] But action is currently being taken in the territories, and approximately 18,000 people—who may be the political arm you referred to—have been detained. Furthermore, there has been a drop in the number of attacks. The question is whether anything more can indeed be done.

[Sharon] I think we can do a lot more. I believe we have some achievements, but the main political arm still continues to function without interruption. We can and must do more. Primarily, we must make it clear that

absolute calm must prevail. As long as we continue to mention such concepts as reaching a tolerable level of terrorism, or lowering the level of terrorism and violence—and unfortunately we have been using such terms—they will never stop. Even if an instruction is given—and it has not yet been issued—to lower or curb terrorism, even then an incident may occur occasionally. But if no such directive is issued, there will never be an end to this.

['Abadi] With your permission, let me go back to the manning of the portfolios. The main problem is that there is a lot of competition over the key portfolios in the next government, if the Likud succeeds in forming it. There may also be another candidate for defense minister. How do you see the composition of the top layer in the Likud government, if it is established?

[Sharon] First of all, I hope the Likud will form the Cabinet and that Mr Shamir will be able to present it soon. As an active partner to the coalition negotiations, I think I can say today that Mr Shamir can form a government without the Alignment. I do not deal with the fight over portfolios. Let me merely point one thing out: Right now, in view of the serious situation which we must not underestimate and especially after the incident in Jericho, I think Israel should undergo a serious shakeup. Yet this is not an isolated case. The situation is deteriorating.

['Abadi] But, if you will permit me, the problem is...

[Sharon, interrupting] The issue...

['Abadi, interrupting] There is presently another candidate for defense minister.

[Sharon] As far as I am concerned, this business is irrelevant right now. There is only one important thing at the moment: to waive puny partisan considerations and allow for the appointment to the vital posts of the person best suited to handle the problems.

['Abadi] If you do not receive the defense portfolio, what portfolio would you prefer, Mr Sharon?

[Sharon] I will not discuss this issue right now. I am merely pointing out what I believe should be done, not what I personally would like.

['Abadi] The political reality will, no doubt, dictate some sort of settlement between the Herut Movement's leaders.

[Sharon] I hope that when the issue is Jewish lives, the reality of the existing situation will win and political wheeling and dealing will occupy the back seat.

['Abadi] With your permission, I would like to go back to the negotiations the Likud is currently engaged in to form a government. The religious parties have raised a series of demands, such as the insistence of the National Religious Party [NRP] on getting three ministries. Do you think it is legitimate for a five-member Knesset list to demand three ministries?

[Sharon] We are only at the start of the negotiations. I can point to one major achievement, and that is that I believe all these parties will tell the president that their candidate for premiership is Mr Yitzhaq Shamir.

['Abadi] Has this already been agreed?

[Sharon] Yes, at least in most of the cases. I think this is exactly what will happen. What we must emphasize is that every negotiation has a beginning. Only on that puzzling idea, Shim'on Peres' proposal for an international conference, did we obtain the immediate acceptance of Mubarak, Husayn, and 'Arafat. But in every negotiation there is initially a distance between the two opening positions.

['Abadi] You mean that there will not be three NRP ministers?

[Sharon] I am not talking about numbers right now, and it is utterly immaterial. Everyone knows how many ministries we have, and the inclination is to form a smaller Cabinet. All these factors will be considered. There are always desires in the beginning, but reality comes into the picture later. There is one thing I would like to say: I would like to ease your mind about the so-called danger of all of Israel turning zealot. I suggest that we free ourselves of such notions. I cannot at all envision such a danger, if you want to call it that. I think that everyone will be able to live according to his worldview, meanwhile realizing that we are living in a Jewish state. At the same time, everyone will be able to lead a life according to his principles. Here, again, one must always bear in mind the process of the beginning of the negotiations and their aftermath.

['Abadi] But there has been a demand for a series of laws, such as the Who Is a Jew law, or the law governing rabbinical appointments. Which one of these demands do you think will not affect the public?

[Sharon] I think we should wait for the negotiations to end.

['Abadi] Have you drawn any red lines that you will not cross in these negotiations?

[Sharon] The Likud has very clear lines on these matters. I think that we must now see it as our foremost priority to form a Cabinet.

['Abadi] Are there any red lines which would make you prefer a coalition with the Alignment over one with the religious parties?

[Sharon] No, I do not think we will reach such a situation. I believe we will definitely be able to form a government made up of elements with which we are currently holding talks and without the Alignment. I believe that those who brought about the deterioration in Israel's policy and who are responsible for the security flop should not participate in the new government. We must in the very near future correct these wrongs. It is true that there are some wonderful people among the Labor Party members, but its political leadership, which was responsible for the deterioration in the political and security situation, is, to my mind, unworthy of and unqualified for any partnership today.

['Abadi] Thank you, Minister Ari'el Sharon, and have a good Sabbath.

[Sharon] Thank you, and a good Sabbath to you, too.

Rabin, Sharon Have 'Sharp Exchange' in Cabinet
TA0611163388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Excerpts] There was a sharp exchange between Ministers Rabin and Sharon at the Cabinet session today. Sharon lashed out at Rabin over the terrorist attack in Jericho, and in the course of the argument Rabin retorted: I don't give a damn about what you say. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

It is not clear whether the outburst at today's Cabinet session was meant to let off steam in the wake of the elections or was an indication of the new struggle within the Likud over the assignment of the defense portfolio in a possible Likud-led government.

Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz asked Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin why the publication of photographs of the terrorist attack in Jericho was banned. He said he believed this was a mistake. Minister Rabin replied: That was my decision; I also objected to the publication of pictures after the assassination of the mukhtar of Bayta and nobody questioned my decision then. At this point Minister Sharon interjected: I said they should be published. Rabin's reply: So you did say that, but I am the one responsible. [passage omitted] Sharon later added that the Cabinet should hold an urgent debate in anticipation of a possible declaration regarding the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. According to him, Israel must announce that it will take measures, such as applying its laws to certain areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Besides the incident between the defense minister and the contender for the defense portfolio, in the first session in its capacity as transitional government, the Cabinet heard reviews about the strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States. A film depicting a joint IDF-U.S. Army exercise was screened before the ministers. [passage omitted]

Likud Examining Plans for Crackdown on 'Uprising'
TA0611163688 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Nov 88 pp 1, 13

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpt] The Likud leaders are planning a series of measures aimed at stopping the intifada [uprising] within a short period of time. Such measures would include punitive steps by the military as well as legal and administrative moves. They intend to implement their plan in the territories immediately after the establishment of a Likud-led government. It has been learned that the plans for putting down the intifada were presented to the Likud leaders before the elections, but it is not clear which one of these plans is going to be implemented.

Our correspondent has learned that the Likud's plans are divided into short-term and long-term ones. The long-term plan includes a recommendation to dismantle some of the refugee camps in the territories, disperse their inhabitants, and relocate them to other sites. Jabalyah in the Gaza Strip will apparently be the first refugee camp where the plan will be implemented.

In the short-term, Likud leaders intend to take a series of measures, particularly against the so-called political center of the PLO in East Jerusalem. The following steps are some of the measures being considered:

—Closing down the offices of various associations and advertisement agencies that work for and on behalf of the PLO.

—Cracking down on the East Jerusalem newspapers, particularly AL-FAJR.

—Banning the movement of people from one district to another as well as restricting passage over the Jordan River bridges.

—Imposing closer controls on Cairo-Amman Bank branches in the West Bank.

—Preventing inhabitants of the territories from having recourse to the High Court of Justice.

Sources in the Likud have said that death sentences against terrorists convicted of serious crimes may be carried out. The sources added that the crackdown on the intifada must be done rapidly so that the inhabitants of the territories abandon their dreams about an independent Palestinian state." [no opening quotation marks as published]

Sources in the territories told our correspondent that the Likud would not be able to stop the intifada and that the Palestinian population is prepared to continue suffering in order to promote its goals, even if either Sharon or Arens are appointed defense minister.

Sa'id Kan'an of Nabulus, who is considered close to Fatah, last night told YEDI'OT AHARONOT: "Although we fear the Likud might use force to crush the intifada, one thing is clear: The intifada will not stop but will instead increase, if the Likud tries to crack down on us."

Our correspondent points out that as of this morning the IDF will be conducting large-scale activities in the territories in anticipation of the wave of riots expected during the PNC session scheduled to begin in Algiers on 12 November. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 6 November adds: "The Army will increase its deployment in the territories in anticipation of the PNC meeting of the PNC in Algiers next week. Our reporter says that the IDF plans to make a number of deterrent arrests and to restrict press coverage of the territories during this time. Defense sources say that similar moves made on election day and on Balfour Day, which followed election day, proved their efficacy in maintaining order."]

The decision on these measures was made prior to the elections in the wake of the PLO's call to step up incidents during the PNC session. [passage omitted]

Further on Unrest, Incidents in Territories

Army Reports 9 Wounded by IDF

TA0511053188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Israel Army sources say nine Arab residents of the territories were wounded by IDF gunfire in putting down violent disturbances yesterday. Three, wounded in Judaea and Samaria, were from the village of Silwad, near Ramallah, and from Balatah, next to Nabulus. Six demonstrators were injured in the Gaza Strip; five from the Al-Shati' camp near Gaza town, and the sixth from Khan Yunus further south. Arab sources say the casualty figure is higher.

Injuries Reported in Gaza Riot

TA0511170188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Three local inhabitants were injured today by IDF soldiers' gunfire during riots in the Gaza Strip. Arab sources, however, report a higher number of casualties.

Several incidents in which stones were thrown at Border Police troops took place over the Sabbath near Wadi Silwan and in the Abu Tor neighborhood in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that there were no casualties and no damage was caused.

2 Firebombs Thrown, No Injuries

TA0511182288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] A firebomb was thrown at a police jeep in Jerusalem's Ra's al-'Amud neighborhood at the foot of the Mount of Olives near the Panorama Hotel. The firebomb exploded, but did not cause any damage or injuries.

Another firebomb was thrown this evening at an Israeli car near the Kafr Qasim junction. The firebomb missed the car and exploded on the road. IDF troops arrived on the scene and began a search of the area.

Casualties Reported in Nabulus

TA0611101288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] An Arab youth was killed and four were wounded in the village of Yasid in the Nabulus region, Arab sources told our correspondent Arye Gus. Military sources said that the IDF is checking the report. There was an IDF initiated operation in the village this morning. Disturbances and clashes with soldiers were reported.

4 Wounded by IDF in Gaza

TA0611180788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Four residents of the Gaza Strip were wounded today during operations by the security forces in the course of dispersing rioters.

Businesses were open as usual in many locations in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports that schools operated without any disruptions and many laborers left for work in Israel.

SLA Soldiers Kill 3 'Terrorists' in Lebanon

TA0611161788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Three terrorists were killed this afternoon in the western section of the security zone in southern Lebanon in a clash with South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers. The SLA soldiers suffered no casualties.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the terrorists reached the shore by a rubber boat probably coming from the Sidon area. The SLA soldiers first noticed the incursion when one of the terrorists tried to fire an RPG shell at them. They shot and killed him. Later, while combing the area, they came across two more terrorists and, in a brief exchange of fire, killed them.

The Commander of the Central Command Yosi Peled arrived at the scene and praised the SLA soldiers for their efficient conduct.

Council of Ministers Bans Selected Commodities

JN0511191588 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] In completion of the economic, financial, and monetary measures the government began to implement, and the measures that the Council of Ministers has recently approved—regarding the decreasing and rationalizing of expenditures of the public sector and the bases and approaches that the Council of Ministers adopted to govern the status of the general budget for the coming years—which are aimed at decreasing the deficit in the general budget and fulfilling all financial obligations of the servicing of the public debts; in continuation of efforts to correct the economic situation within the framework of restoring balance to the national economy and to reactivate the elements of strength and growth in it; and in harmony with the general national aproach of moving from the stage of over-consumption into the stage of saving, investment, and useful production—in order to increase the degree of self-reliance and change the patterns of luxury and services consumption pressuring the Kindgom's imports of foreign currencies, in its session which it held today under Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, the Council of Ministers decided the following:

1. To ban the importation of the following commodities as of 6 November 1988 until 31 December 1989, provided that this ban shall apply to the public and private sectors: Goods and passenger transportation vehicles, television sets and their antennas, video sets and cameras, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, house, kitchen, office furniture with the exception of furniture used in medical, surgery, and veterinary fields; chandeliers, microwave ovens, marble, tile, roof tile, granite, statues and works of art, artificial flowers, leaves and fruit used for decoration.

All the import licenses issued for these commodities shall be cancelled with the exception of those licenses or the parts pertaining to the aforementioned commodities for which letters of credit have already been opened through the Jordanian banks and financial companies, or the licenses of the commodities that were shipped in accordance with original bill of laiding before 6 November 1988. The collected import fees shall be paid back for the whole or parts of the licenses that were cancelled.

2. To increase custom fees on a number of non-basic commodities and luxuries with the objective of decreasing their importation and rationalizing their uses; to levy a 10 percent tax on all the bills of the four-star and above hotels and resturants; to levy a 3 percent tax of the value of air tickets used for traveling abroad, which are sold or issued in the Kingdom; and to increase the departure tax.

3. To increase annual fees on work permits granted to the Arab and foreign workers who work in sectors other than the agricultural and nursing sectors.

4. To decrease the tariff on electricity consumption for citizens by 10 percent; and to decrease the tariff on water consumption for citizens by 20-5 percent according to the rate of their consumption as of the 1st of this month.

5. To decrease the peak hours regarding the tariff of electricity used in industry to 3 hours per day.

It has been decided to entrust the ministers of supply and trade and industry to prepare a study on the true cost of the imported and locally-produced commodities with the objective of fixing their prices, provided that this study shall be completed within the next few days.

Release of Hostages Linked to U.S.-Iran Ties

NC0411125288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1240 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] A source close to Islamic circles has stated that the fate of nine U.S. hostages, including Terry Anderson, is closely linked to that of three British hostages, including Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite. The source said that the release of the hostages falls within the framework of the full resumption [itlaq] of U.S.-Iranian relations.

Reportage on Statement Issued by Islamic Jihad

Anderson Photo Included

NC0411153588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1520 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] According to an urgent report received a short time ago, the Islamic Jihad Organization [IJO] has accused the United States of failing to fulfill its promises and pledges. It pointed out that Washington's failure in this respect is the primary obstacle which delayed the release of the U.S. hostages. In a statement sent to an international news agency in Beirut, the IJO said that the sole and sound way to ensure the captives' freedom and safety is through the achievement of its just demands and that this and nothing else is the main point of this issue. The organization accompanied its statement with a Polaroid photo of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson.

U.S. Made 'Several Deals'

NC0411174888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization today said that, contrary to lies and allegations by the U.S. Administration, this administration repeatedly negotiated for the release of U.S. hostages. In a statement accompanied by a polaroid picture of hostage Terry Anderson and delivered to an international news agency in West Beirut, the Islamic Jihad said that the United States made several deals concerning the hostages during the hijacking of the TWA airliner in June 1985.

President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George Bush had denied that they negotiated with the terrorists who hijacked the TWA airliner.

Hope for Release 'Gone Forever'

NC0411204788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2025 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization has announced that the hostage issue is in no way linked to the events in the Gulf and that hope for their release is now gone forever [dhahab bila raj'ah]. The organization pointed out that the captives' not being released results from the United States' failure to fulfill its pledges. U.S. Vice President George Bush had said the Iran-Iraq cease-fire improves the prospects for the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

'Text' of Jihad Statement

NC0711092788 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 5 Nov 88 pp 1, 8

[Text] The "Islamic Jihad Organization" has asserted that "meeting our just demands" is the "only proper way" in which the foreign hostages will be released. The organization added that this is the only and fundamental aspect of the issue.

This assertion was contained in a new statement which the organization sent to the AL-NAHAR newspaper yesterday afternoon. The statement responds to the U.S. Administration's reaction to the videotape which the organization sent to two foreign news agencies last Monday [31 October], which contained a filmed message from journalist Terry Anderson, ASSOCIATED PRESS director in Beirut, and U.S. Prof Thomas Sutherland, who are both being held by the Islamic Jihad. The following is the text of the statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. "We have sent down to these manifest signs; and none reject them but those who are perverse," verily God said the truth.

To the free people of the world; to the American people and families of the hostages: Day after day, the American administration increasingly cheats, lies to, and misleads the American people and the families of the hostages in an attempt to avoid pressure which a may force it to embark upon realistic steps to resolve the hostage issue. It also poses such a path out of its desire to maintain its position, privileges, and personal interests. Having learned of the U.S. comment, as stated by "Reagan" and "Bush," on the content of the videocassette made by Terry Anderson, we would like to point out the following:

1. Regardless of its contents, Terry Anderson made the videocassette directly and without any pressure, after he received written and filmed messages through news agencies. The cassette was made after we had a sharp discussion with him on the implications of the ideas he presented, and which lacked much in our view. Terry Anderson will respond to these allegations properly.

2. The United States always has evaded its responsibility with regard to the contents of tapes and messages—contents which represent indisputable facts—by directly casting doubt on the contents and on whether the tapes were issues by the kidnappers.

3. Our detainees are not isolated from the outside world, but are kept abreast of all news through newspapers, magazines, and television. They are aware of every

move, big or small, that has or will be undertaken in relation to their situation. What "Reagan" said in this regard is similar to the ostrich who buries its head in the sand so that the hunter will not see it.

4. The U.S. Administration, through its President, vice president and their advisers and aides, is the one which made all the deals on the hostages. Who, if not the U.S. Administration, carried out the negotiations in the "TWA" affairs, and on what basis were the 40 passengers and the 735 detainees in Israeli prisons released?

Who carried out the negotiations in the "Iran-contra" affair? Who gave weapons, received funds, and transferred some of the money to the contras? How strange! Just yesterday "Reagan" declared that he still does not know who provided the weapons and where the money in the "Irangate" affair came from. Is it not the American Administration? Or are they living in a cattle ranch with everyone doing as he pleases? If they know, this is an undeniable catastrophe. If they do not know, this is a bigger catastrophe!

5. Regarding reports that the cease-fire in the Gulf will accelerate the release of those whom we hold, we reiterate and emphasize for the 1,000th time that the issue of the captives is not linked either directly or indirectly to the events in the Gulf. Any hope pinned in the past on such a development has gone forever. The failure to release the captives is now due to the U.S. lies and deception and nonfulfillment of pledges and promises.

6. The only and correct way to secure the freedom and safety of the captives is to meet our just demands. This is the main and fundamental aspect of this issue and nothing else.

[Signed] The Islamic Jihad Organization

November 1988

Abu Nidal Group on French, Belgian Hostages

NC0611202488 Paris AFP in English 2017 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Beirut, Nov 6 (AFP)—The Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) of Abu Nidal on Sunday raised the possibility that two French children, part of a group of French and Belgian nationals seized a year ago aboard a yacht, could soon be released.

The FRC, in a statement here, also asserted that Jan Cools, a Belgian doctor who disappeared in southern Lebanon five months ago, was being held by a Lebanese group.

The FRC communique said it had taken "positive steps" that could lead to the release of Marie-Laure, 6, and Virginie, 7, who were aboard the yacht Silco when it was captured by the FRG in the eastern Mediterranean last November 8.

The girls were in the company of their mother, Jacqueline Valente, and five Belgian nationals. Mrs Valente has since had a third child while in captivity.

The statement said Dr Cools, a Belgian doctor working for the Norwegian humanitarian organization Norwac, was still being interrogated by a Lebanese group, which it did not name.

It accused the Belgian government of "giving into demands from Mosad (the Israeli intelligence service), which had spread rumors that (the FRC) was holding Dr Cools."

Dr Cools, 32, left a Norwac clinic at the Al-Rashidiyah Palestinian refugee camp in southern Lebanon for the nearby city of Tyre on May 21 and has not been heard from since.

Residents of the Al-Rashidiyah camp on Sunday appealed for the "immediate" release of Dr Cools and urged "all security services and humanitarian agencies to aid in his liberation."

Their statement denounced his kidnappers, described it [as received] as enemies of the people of the camp who lived in difficult conditions and needed all the help offered them.

There are 12,000 Palestinian residents at Al-Rashidiyah.

Further on Hostages

NC0711071188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council [FRC], which is led by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], has raised the possibility that two French children seized 1 year ago could be released soon. The FRC also disclosed that Belgian doctor Jan Cools, who was kidnapped 5 months ago, is being held by a Lebanese group.

In a communique distributed in Beirut last night, the FRC explained that it has taken positive steps that could lead to the release of Marie-Laure and Virginie, who were aboard the yacht "Silco" when it was captured in the Mediterranean on 8 November 1987.

The communique did not explain the nature of these steps, which could lead to the release of the two children.

It should be recalled that five Belgians and three French women were aboard the "Silco." Frenchwoman Jacqueline Valente, the mother of the two children, has given birth to a third child during her captivity.

On the other hand, the FRC communique disclosed that Belgian doctor Jan Cools, who was kidnapped in southern Lebanon on 21 May, is still being interrogated by a Lebanese group, which it did not name.

Meanwhile, the inhabitants of Al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre have called for the immediate release of the Belgian doctor and urged all security services and humanitarian agencies to do their utmost to bring about his release.

'Awn: Army Appointments Could Spell Partition

NC0511073888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has responded to the Al-Sana'i' grouping [Al-Huss government] and has stated in an interview with AFP, that an initiative to appoint an Army commander constitutes a prominent partitionist move. He added: After dividing the legitimate government, they now seek to divide the Army.

In another interview with the Army magazine, Gen 'Awn said that the experiences we have had during the crisis, namely promises made for unification, liberation, sovereignty, liberty, and independence at the same time that attempts continued to fragment the country, cause humiliation, suppress wills, and usurp rights, have grown sufficiently to drive the Lebanese people to the stage of revolt against this long crisis.

The prime minister asserted the Army's stance against foreign hegemony is nothing less than a faithful expression of the people's will. He pointed out that this stance is in fact the harbinger of better things and the breaking of dawn.

Fadlallah on Khomeyni's 'Supreme Leadership'

LD0411144088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, one of the combatant clergy of Lebanon, spoke today before the Friday prayer sermons were delivered in Tehran. He urged the world's Muslims to follow the teachings of the Great Koran and the life of esteemed prophet, peace on him and his scion.

He said: Muslims should always try to make the unity of all Muslims possible, because Muslim unity is the key to their victory. He added: The Muslims should stand firm against all those who try to disrupt their unity. He emphasized the supreme leadership of Imam Khomeyni, and said: We, as the Muslim people of Lebanon, will still continue our struggle against Zionism, and the martyrdom-seeking operation of Martyr Ameli against the Zionists in Lebanon is the proof of our claim.

Speaks on 'Foreign Powers'

LD0411214688 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—Foreign powers want to further complicate Lebanon's problems in order to pave the way for their presence in the country, said the prominent Lebanese 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah here Thursday.

Speaking at a political panel discussion on the Channel Two of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Broadcasting (IRIB), he said that the continuation of the present condition in Lebanon would result in the country's disintegration which, would entail the division of the region and to an international crisis. He predicted that the situation would continue till the end of the U.S. presidential campaign.

Under the present circumstances, military operations cannot solve all of the country's problems and probably political moves can solve the problems in a better way, he added.

On the fact that Iraq was the first country which recognized Michel 'Awn's government, Fadlallah said "We are standing against this move." He added that the Iraqi regime supported Maronites and Christians in Lebanon.

Also speaking at the discussion, head of Lebanon's Towhid (Unification) Movement Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban referred to disagreements existing among different parties on the election of a president for Lebanon.

In my opinion, world powers want the present situation continue till a foreign power dominates over the country, said Sha'ban. He expressed hope that Muslim forces could foil their enemies' plots through unity and coordination.

On Libya's support for 'Awn, Sha'ban said "Libya does not play a major role in Lebanon and does not have many supporters among Muslim parties and Christians as well."

We have always witnessed various and contradictory political views from Libya in relation to Lebanon, he said. Sha'ban added that Libya had indiscreetly entered Lebanon's political scene.

Libya and Syria have always had different views concerning the policies exercised in Lebanon and the former's recent move is believed to aim at pressuring the latter, he said.

Further Reportage on Israeli Military Operations

Helicopters Bombard 'Alman

NC0611151488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli helicopters have been attacking the 'Alman-al-Awwali area in the South since 1630 today, while two other helicopters flew over the town. The Israeli helicopters are drawing antiaircraft fire. The sound of explosions is reverberating throughout the town. The bombardment was continuing when this news report was written and the extent of losses is still unknown.

Abu Nidal Positions Hit

NC0611153488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1518 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli combat aircraft launched an air raid against Palestinian positions in the Al-Bustan al-Kabir area on Sidon's eastern boulevard, and on the outskirts of Bqusta near 'Alman. According to security sources, Israeli helicopters attacked positions held by the Abu Nidal-led [Sabri al-Banna] Fatah-Revolutionary Council in the Bqusta area to the east of Al-Awwali. Eyewitnesses reported that the aircraft fired at least six missiles. At the same time, they were confronted by intensive antiaircraft fire. Preliminary reports indicate that two people have been wounded. They are Hammud Husayn 'Asi and Ahmad al-Safadi. The raids also caused extensive property damage.

The Israeli helicopters were still flying over areas in the south as of this newscast.

Mock Raids Conducted

NC0611175888 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1746 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] We have just received the following. A few moments ago, our correspondent in the South reported that Israeli Air Force planes are currently flying over Sidon and conducting mock raids over the areas to the east of the city.

Arms Depot, Toy Shop Destroyed

NC0611174888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli helicopter gunships launched an air strike against Palestinian positions in the Al-Bustan al-Kabir area on Sidon's eastern boulevard this afternoon. Initial reports indicate that two people were wounded during the raid. The raid also caused extensive material damage and destroyed a toy shop belonging to Abu Mahmud Hijazi.

Citing a Palestinian source in Sidon, AFP reported that the Israeli aircraft destroyed an arms depot belonging to the Abu Nidal-led [Sabri al-Banna] Fatah-Revolutionary Council. Explosions reverberated throughout Sidon, and ambulances raced to the scene to transport the wounded. Sirens were sounded shortly before the Israeli attack took place.

Abu Nidal Group Denies Damage

NC0611215588 Paris AFP in English 2143 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Sidon, Lebanon, Nov 6 (AFP)—Israeli helicopters on Sunday destroyed a toy store in this southern Lebanese port city, injuring two Lebanese civilians, police said.

Police earlier reported that the late afternoon attack also demolished a munitions depot behind the store just outside city limits, which Palestinian sources said belonged to the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FCR) of Abu Nidal.

But the FRC in a statement later denied that any of its positions had been damaged and local police said the toy store, located in northeastern Sidon, had been the only structure destroyed in the raid. [passage omitted]

Mock Raids on Sidon, Camps

NC0611081188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0802 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes have been staging sorties at low altitude over Sidon and the camps since 0945 today, staging mock raids. The warplanes drew antiaircraft fire.

Reconnaissance Plane Sighted

NC0611140988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] An Israeli reconnaissance plane flew over Sidon this afternoon. A state of extreme caution is prevailing in the area in the wake of earlier Israeli combat aircraft overflights and mock raids against a number of positions to the east of Sidon.

Israel To Build Missile Base on Golan Heights

NC0611181588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] According to Al-Suhufiyah News Agency, the English-language weekly ARAB WORLD reports in the issue to appear tomorrow that Israel has recently constructed its largest long-range surface-to-surface missile base on the Golan Heights. The news agency cited a ranking East European diplomatic source as saying that the Israeli Army has established a closed military zone in two small adjacent Syrian villages, Za'urah and 'Ayn Fit, and erected the new missile bases.

The British agency [as heard] pointed out that the missiles, believed to be U.S.-made, can hit deep inside Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon. The agency noted that the visit to Moscow last week by Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas coincided with the information received by Damascus on the issue. The agency added that Gen Talas' talks with his Soviet counterpart dealt with the possibility of supplying Syria with long-range surface-to-surface missiles to ensure a strategic balance with Israel in this field.

SLA Troops Kill 3 Gunmen in Al-Naqurah

NC0611160088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] troops killed three gunmen in the Al-Naqurah area this afternoon. According to our information, an SLA force spotted one of the

gunmen as he was getting ready to fire a rocket. The SLA force opened fire, killing him instantly. Immediately afterward, SLA units raked the area and managed to kill two other gunmen.

Al-Sa'iqah Group Claims Responsibility for Attack
NC0711062288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] The Al-Sa'iqah Organization has claimed responsibility for the fedayeen operation in Al-Naqurah in south Lebanon [on 6 November]. In a statement it issued last night, the organization stated that one of its groups successfully carried out a martyrdom operation south of Ra's al-Naqurah, attacking an Israeli military convoy and engaging its soldiers for over 1 hour. According to the statement, the group killed a number of Israeli soldiers and damaged and destroyed a number of mechanized vehciles. Three resistance fighters were martyred during the operation, the statement added.

The Israeli radio has admitted the operation, claiming that a clash took place between agent Lahd militiamen and a number of fedayeen yesterday afternoon. According to the radio, three fedayeen who infilterated into the area by means of a rubber dinghy were killed. The commander of the so-called northern zone, Gen Yosi Peled, and an accompanying delegation of officers, inspected the scene of the operation.

Bomb Explodes Near Syrian Post in W. Beirut
NC0511070488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] An explosive device was detonated near a position manned by the Syrian occupation forces in 'Ayn al-Muraysah in West Beirut at 2215 last night.

5 Soldiers Kidnapped at Syrian Roadblock
NC0711071888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Five Lebanese soldiers were reported missing in the 'Uyun al-Siman area yesterday after they left their posts with their personal weapons. The circumstances of their disappearance are not yet clear.

However, the AL-ANWAR newspaper reports that the Lebanese soldiers were kidnapped at a Syrian roadblock between 'Uyun al-Siman and Al-Biqa'.

Amal, Hizballah Agree To End Tension in Suburb
NC0411143688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] As part of the attempts to bring the security situation in Beirut's southern suburb under control, a meeting took place this afternoon in the Beirut security center. The meeting was attended by Staff Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud from the Syrian observers team; Haj 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah and Haj Faruq Safa' from Hizballah; and Ahmad al-Ba'labakki from the Amal Movement.

During this meeting, the sitatuion in the southern suburb and the recent incidents which took place as a result of kidnapping and counter-kidnapping between Hizballah and the Amal Movement were discussed. Agreement was reached on the following points:

1. Acts of kidnapping and detention will be stopped.

2. All the kidnapped people will be released by both parties.

3. Residents who had left the southern suburb will return to their homes.

4. Manifestations of armed presence and tension in the area will be removed under the supervision of the Syrian forces. A committee composed of Major Hikmat Isbir from the Syrian observers, Haj 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah and Haj Faruq Safa' from Hizballah, and Ahmad al-Ba'labakiki and 'Ali Surani from the Amal Movement will supervise and ensure the implementation of the agreement. The committee will also supervise the exchange of kidnapped persons by both parties at 1800 oday.

5. Whoever violates the agreement will be immediately handed over to the Syrian forces.

Amal, Hizballah Exchange Kidnapped People
NC0411205288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Excerpt] This evening the Amal Movement and Hizballah exchanged people who had been kidnapped. Reports say that 20 kidnapped people, 10 from each side, were exchanged. The exchange took place following an agreement reached between the two parties under Syrian auspices today. [passage omitted]

Amal, Palestinians Clash Near Sidon
NC0411173788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] Clashes between the Amal Movement and the Palestinians erupted southeast of Sidon this afternoon. Amal positions in Maghdushah and the Palestinian posts in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp and the nearby hills exchanged artillery and rocket fire. During the clashes, the Sidon-Tyre Road starting from Al-Ghaziyah was closed after several artillery shells fell in the area, especially near the town of Al-Safa, where Amal has military centers.

Fighting Said Over

NC0411192988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] According to the latest reports from the South, fighting between Amal Movement elements and the Palestinians stopped at about 1800 today following intensive contacts. During these contacts agreement was also reached to reopen the coastal road under the supervision of the security authority of the Nasirite Popular Organization, which stepped up its roadblocks and patrols on this road, particularly in the area extending up to Sayniq Bridge.

Amal Movement sources had reported that Amal movement positions in Al-Ghaziyah, Al-Shawakir, Maghdushah, Al-Hamiyah, Al-Mharbiyah, and the Amal roadblock near the Al-Safa factory had come under sniper fire and artillery shelling from the 'Arafat supporters' positions on Mar Ilyas hill. The coastal road was subsequently closed to traffic, and a state of extreme caution prevailed.

Commenting on these incidents, an Amal Movement media source in the South has denounced the 'Arafat supporters' attempt to aggravate the situation in the area east of Sidon. The source called on all the national and Islamic forces, particularly the national leaders of Sidon, to intervene quickly and shoulder their historic responsibilities in putting an end to such practices which harm the alliance relationship between the Lebanese and Palestinian people and between Sidon and the South.

The source demanded that the coastal road remain secure because it is the road used by the resistance and said that any attack on the road means an attack on the resistance also.

Clashes Reported in South

NC0511143088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Clashes between Amal and Palestinian gunmen positions southeast of Sidon are continuing. Amal sources have said that its posts in the Al-Ghaziyah and Al-Shawakir hills and near Al-Safa factory are coming under machinegun and rocket fire from Palestinian gunmen positions in the Maria area.

Clashes Resume 5 Nov

NC0611085888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Clashes between Amal and the Palestinians continue on the combat lines of Maghdushah, Al-Shawakir, and Al-Ghaziyah Hills with both sides using machineguns and rockets.

The coastal road between Sayniq and Al-Ghaziyah is still closed as it is coming under gunfire.

Clashes in Sidon Areas

NC0711094188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Clashes involving the use of rockets and machineguns are raging between the members manning the Amal Movement's positions in Maghdushah and Maria and Palestinians manning positions on the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah hills.

Al-Asad Cables Gorbachev on October Revolution
JN0611150288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 6 Nov 88

["Text" of congratulatory cable from President Hafiz al-Asad to Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the 71st anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution (GOSR); date not given]

[Text] The 71st anniversary of the GOSR is an opportunity which I am pleased to seize in order to send you and the comrade members of the CPSU Central Committee and also the friendly Soviet people my sincerest congratulations on behalf of the Syrian Arab people, in my own name and in the name of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] command.

The GOSR is a prominent turning point and a bright landmark in the history of both the USSR and the world working class. Thanks to the GOSR, the USSR turned into a superpower which supports peoples' struggle, backs the national liberation movements, and works for the sake of peace and justice. All this has had a great effect on the international level.

Through the growing relations between the ASBP and the CPSU, relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries have been enhanced based on the joint principles in which we believe and for the sake of the common objectives we are struggling to achieve. These relations became further entrenched with the passage of time. All attempts by the hostile forces have failed to undermine the strong Syrian-USSR relations.

We in the Syrian Arab Republic wish the friendly Soviet people further success and achievements under your leadership. I seize this oportunity to once again express to you, honorable comrade, my best wishes of good health and happiness.

Mufti Khalid Confers With Vice President Khaddam
NC0511155888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Excerpts] According to Damascus reports, His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Republic [of Lebanon], held a 2-hour meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus today. The discussions revolved around the latest developments in Lebanon.

At the end of the meeting, Mufti Khalid said: The meeting was extremely good and the prevailing atmosphere it was better than we had expected. We have also discussed the current issues in the region. In answer to a question about what has occurred between Minister Junblatt and the mufti's office, Mufti Khalid said: We have declared our stand, and there is nothing new. [passage omitted]

Mufti Hasan Khalid left for Damascus at 1000 today at an official invitation from the Syrian leadership. Sources in the mufti's office said that Mufti Khalid might spend the night in Damascus if he is able to meet with resident Hafiz al-Asad tonight.

Foreign Minister Returns From YAR, PDRY Visits
JN0511063588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus last night after visiting the YAR and the PDRY and conveying messages from President Hafiz al-Asad to the leaders of the two countries.

The foreign minister left Aden last night. He was seen off at Aden Airport by PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

People's Assembly Delegation Returns From DPRK
JN0511113488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] In Pyongyang, the DPRK praised the legitimate struggle by the Syrian Arab people under President Hafiz al-Asad to restore the occupied Arab territories and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people. It also expressed pride in the friendship with the Syrian Arab people, who adhere to anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist principles and aims.

This came in a talk by DPRK Vice President Comrade Pak Song-chol during his reception of a Syrian People's Assembly delegation led by its secretary, Majid 'Iz Ruhaybani. The delegation returned to Damascus yesterday evening after a week-long visit to the DPRK.

Romanian Prime Minister Dascalescu Arrives
JN0711130588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu and his delegation arrived in Damascus this morning on an official and cordial visit to the Syrian Arab Republic at the invitation of Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Prime Minister al-Zu'bi headed those who welcomed him at the airport. [passage omitted]

Paper Lauds Call for 'Comprehensive' Strategy
JN0611134088 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus, 6 Nov (SANA)—The newspaper, TISHRIN, has affirmed that the Syrian call to build a comprehensive Arab strategy is an urgent pan-Arab demand which goes hand in hand with the occupied homeland's revolution to liberate the land and regain rights.

In a commentary today, the newspaper reviewed the aggressive statements made by the Zionist entity's leaders before and after the elections. These statements affirm that there is a common denominator agreed on by all the competitors. This common denominator is summarized in who will apply and implement the Zionist expansionist schemes strategically at the expense of the occupied territories and apply and implement the iron fist policy to control the people's uprising and terminate it tactically.

The paper adds: The Zionist entity leaders with all their differences in party loyalties and racist allegiances agree on their aggressive strategies with unified goals, the dimensions of which their leader, Jabotinsky, summarised at one time when, with their iron fist policy, they destroyed anyone who opposed Zionism. This, in short, is their policy toward the Arabs.

The paper wonders: The Zionist enemy leaders have their strategies for aggression and invasion with both political and military dimensions. So why haven't we Arabs yet achieved a defense strategy and when will we start believing that strategic balance is the successful medicine for this dreadful disease? When will we begin directing this balance strongly and comprehensively, so long as the Arabs, all the Arabs, are in danger and the Zionist leaders' threats, with their various allegiances, are continuing and increasing under the noses of the whole world and the Arabs in particular.

The paper concludes: Since the beginning of the conflict with the Zionist enemy, Syria realized this danger and rationalized its dimensions while exercising its struggle from the time President Al-Asad assumed the leadership of the pan-Arab battle for the Arab future. This makes the Syrian call to build a comprehensive Arab strategy a pan-Arab call.

Broadcast Urges Resistance After Elections

JN0511074388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return" by Ibrahim Basyuni]

[Text] In light of the outcome of the 12th Zionist Knesset elections, the general trend of the next Zionist government, like that of its predecessor, will be based on racial extremism and a hard-line policy on the questions of Palestine and peace in the region. The new Zionist government will depend in its composition on Zionist parties under the Likud, with the participation of the small religious parties, which emerged victorious from these elections in view of the number of Knesset seats they won.

All Zionist parties and forces qualified to form the new government coalition have adopted the policy of Judaizing the land, expelling the Arabs from their homes, and creating greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. These Zionist parties and forces also explicitly reject an international conference for peace in the Middle East, adhere to the possession of the land, and call for even tougher measures to suppress the uprising of our people in the occupied homeland. Some of these parties even dream of a mass transfer of our people from their homeland.

The results in themselves are not the only indication that peace opportunities in the region have been buried. A just peace has no supporters among the parties and main blocks in the Zionist entity, whether rightists or alleged leftists. The Ma'arakh does not differ from the Likud or other religious parties. The strongest evidence is Ma'arakh's current contacts with the small religious parties to win their support and consent to join it in forming the next government.

The Ma'arakh, the Likud, the religious parties, and others agree on rejecting the Palestinian state, the PLO, and its legitimate right to represent the Palestinian Arab people. They all reject withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and adhere to Jerusalem as a unified capital, as they put it, for the Zionist entity. They all adhere to the settlement policy in the occupied territories and to the policy of violence, terrorism, and oppression against the uprising of our people in the occupied homeland.

From this premise, the next Zionist government, whether under the leadership of the Likud or the Ma'arakh, will be an extension of the successive Zionist governments, which adopt the racist Zionist ideology. The best reaction to the outcome of the Zionist elections, therefore, is to escalate the Palestinian uprising and support it by all means—material, political, and media.

The Zionist enemy, which adheres to the policy of force and violence, must be confronted with force and resistance. Our Palestinian Arab people, through their firm will and belief in their legitimate rights, are able to confront the Zionist aggressors, their military machine, and their aggressive expansionist schemes.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Interviewed by BBC TV

LD0611153488 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 0600 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, 5 Nov BAKHTAR—Esteemed Afghan President Najibullah recently received a BBC television team for an interview. The text of this interview is as follows:

Question: Taking into account the opposition groups' negative replies to the president's invitation to join the national reconciliation [policy], is this policy still alive?

Answer: What is important to us is that we received a positive response from the majority of Afghanistan's people in connection with the national reconciliation policy. The extremists' negative response does not bother us. The Republic of Afghanistan has succeeded in getting the support of the moderate opposition to begin a dialogue and talks to achieve peace and end war. How could one not struggle for peace? Based on the interest of Afghanistan's people, we will not allow ourselves to stop the noble and humane struggle for national reconciliation, which conforms to our people's interest.

Therefore, the national reconciliation policy is not weakened but gets fresh impetus every day from new initiatives. You have heard the Afghan Government's new proposals concerning the expansion of the national reconciliation policy. The national reconciliation policy is the reflection of the reality of our society. We have learned and experienced during this period that we should act in accordance with the conditions and objective realities of society.

Question: Will the revolutionary movement survive?

Answer: I must tell you that one should not take an obstructive position on the revolutionary movement. What we mean by the revolutionary movement is relatively deep-rooted transformation. Our country has been kept backward and faces several social and economic problems. Therefore, in my opinion, the meaning of a revolutionary movement is the accomplishment of deep transformations in the interest of the majority of people, taking into account the country's conditions and situation and the national interest of the Afghan people.

In view of this, particularly during 10 years of Pakistani interference and violations and of extremist destruction, the Republic of Afghanistan has suffered enormous damage. The country's reconstruction and economic revival naturally demand deep and unusual work and activity. Therefore, this spirit and movement will live.

Question: Is the president ready to give up power if this contributes to a political solution?

Answer: In present conditions, the main and basic issue in our country is to end war and bloodshed, not to remove a certain person from a certain post. As we have said many times, if the question of ensuring our people's peace, tranquillity, and prosperity is discussed we will not spare ourselves on this path. We believe that only with the participation of all parties and political and social organizations in the state and with formation of a necessary coalition can the flames of war be extinguished.

Question: What type of negative political and psychological impact will the withdrawal of the Soviet forces have?

Answer: Up to now the withdrawal of Soviet forces has taken place within the framework of the Geneva accords. If Pakistan and the United States observe the Geneva accords honestly—as they have been observed by the Afghan and Soviet sides—the withdrawal of forces will not have a negative impact. It would have been better if you had asked what the negative effect would be if Pakistan and the United States do not observe the Geneva accords from now on.

Question: Some missiles hit Kabul airport. Has the siege of Kabul begun?

Answer: If the extremists were capable of laying siege to Kabul they would have done so earlier. They have mounted a huge propaganda campaign about the occupation of Jalalabad, Gardeyz, Qandahar, Zabol, and some other provinces. Firing surface-to-surface missiles from long distances at civilian residential areas, schools, public establishements, and so on is not a sign of their power. The reason they fire these missiles is to create fear and intimidate the people. They claim that 90 percent of the people support them. If this is the case, then why do they fire missiles at their own supporters? Not only is Kabul city not under siege, but it is defending itself decisively.

However, if the extremists force us, we will use weapons that have not been used before. We will do this. I want to inform you that our Armed Forces were recently equipped with modern weapons. If neccessary, we will obtain a larger quantity of such weapons. Last night [not further specified] you heard the report on the use of the new weapons.

Question: You spoke about disloyal elements in the Armed Forces. What do mean by this?

Answer: I have never spoken about disloyal elements in the Armed Forces. In connection with the Armed Forces, I say explicitly that our Armed Forces have proven in practice during the last 10 years that they decisively defend independence, freedom, and people's power. The epics of the Armed Forces personnel, which are registered with golden lines in the history of Afghanistan, are the cause of pride for each Afghan.

Question: There are reports of the arrest of a number of people before the PDPA Central Committee Plenum. Who are these people and why were they arrested?

Answer: They are a number of people who were acting against the national reconciliation policy and the Geneva accords. They resorted to propaganda ploys against national security, destructive activities, and created fear and intimidation among the people. They were arrested in accordance with the law. As you mentioned in your question, the number of persons involved was not large.

Leaders Send Greetings on Soviet Anniversary

LD0611215088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, the president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and Muhammad Hasan Sharq, the prime minister of Afghanistan, have sent the following message on the occasion on the 71st anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution [GOSR] to M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and to His Excellency Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

We are happy to convey our warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the GOSR to you, to the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and to the government and people of the Soviet Union on behalf of the people and government of the Republic of Afghanistan and of ourselves.

The GOSR is the greatest event in mankind's history and marks the birth of the profound, fundamental changes that benefited the masses of workers. The country of the Soviets, the product of the October Revolution, has strongly developed its potentials based on peace, progress, and freedom in the world. The resolutions of the 19th CPSU Conference are a great achievement of the Soviet people and of the greatest historic importance.

In all aspects of Soviet society and in the field of foreign policy, restructuring, as seen in the new political thinking, the search to improve international relations, political solutions to regional disputes, nuclear disarmament, a world free from nuclear weapons, peace, security, and cooperation in international relations, is supported more and more by the people of the world, including the people of our country.

We are fully confident that traditional friendship and all-round cooperation between our states and peoples, based on frendship, goodneighborly relations, and cooperation between the two countries, which is a shining example of the principles of equality and mutually beneficial cooperation, will become stronger every day to benefit the people of both countries and to ensure peace and security in the region and in the world.

The people and government of the Republic of Afganistan are deeply grateful to the friendly Soviet people for that country's all-round aid for the advancement of the economy and national culture of our country, for an independent, free, and nonaligned Afghanistan.

While the people and the government of the Republic of Afghanistan are patiently and bravely implementing national reconciliation and undertaking new initiatives to end the war and bloodshed and ensure complete peace in the country, the Soviet Union, besides extending all-round and direct aid in granting $600 million through the humanitarian UN program, is providing the means to rehabilitate Afghan refugees and to revive the national economy of the Republic of Afghanistan.

I would like to assure you that our people are keeping and deepening their traditional friendship and all-round cooperation with our great northern neighbor, the Soviet Union. We are grateful to the Soviet Union for its support of the national reconciliation policy in the Republic of Afghanistan. We value the efforts of that country to enforce the Geneva accords, to ensure peace on the territory of Afghanistan. The Republic of Afghanistan is continuing its efforts to ensure lasting peace in the country and to form a goverment with a broad social base which is acceptable to all parties involved.

We express our best wishes for your good health and for the ever-increasing progress of the friendly Soviet Union and for the efforts of that country to ensure peace and security in the world.

[Signed] Najibullah, General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and President of Afghanistan
Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, Prime Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan

Gen Tanay Attends Soviet Celebration in Kabul

LD0611070288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 5, BAKHTAR—The 71st anniversary of Oct. Revolution was welcomed in a grand gathering held here.

Lieutenent General Shahnawaz Tanay minister of defence, Captain General Muhammad Nabi 'Azimi first deputy defence minister, Captain General Muhammad Asef Delawar and a number of commanders and generals of the Defence Ministry had participated in the meeting.

A Soviet military adviser was the first speaker of the gathering, who spoke about the successes of Great October Revolution towards building a socialist society and defending the country against outside aggressions and appreciated the friendship between the people of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Defence minister, Lieutenent General Tanay, congratulated the gains of Oct. Revolution to Soviet military advisers and spoke about the friendship between two countries' peoples and thanked the Soviet Union for all-sided help afforded to Afghanistan and specifically singled out military aids to Afghanistan. He went on to say that Afghans have learned alot from the experiences of USSR limited contingent.

He further appreciated the comrade-in-arms relationship between the two armies and added that this relation has gone into history.

Afghan people will remember the internationalist helps of Soviet Union for ever with a sense of goodwill.

Medals and orders approved by Republic of Afghanistan were awarded to military experts of the Soviet Union here at the end of the grand gathering.

Commentary on Withdrawal Suspension, New Weapons
LD0511175088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union made comprehensive efforts to achieve the Geneva accords and find a political solution for the situation around Afghanistan. They acted honestly to implement the accords and observed all of the related moves. The withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingents from Afghanistan began on 15 May 1988 in full accordance with the Geneva agreements and by 15 August 1988, 50 percent of the Soviet forces had pulled out of our peace-loving country according to schedule. There are now no Soviet military contingents in 25 provinces of the country. The Afghan people have suffered tremendously from the protracted war and the fratricide. They expected to see peace and security restored in the country when the Geneva agreements were signed. They cooperated honestly to attain this goal.

Because the present situation is intolerable for the Republic of Afghanistan and because specific measures and actions are needed to rectify the situation, the Repaublic of Afghanistan, simultaneous with its readiness to advance honest talks and negotiations with the opposition and fully believing that the alleviation of the present situation is possible only through peaceful methods, was compelled to supply its Armed Forces with new and advanced weapons in order to safeguard its independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty.

Similarly, taking into account the difficult political-military situation, the responsibility for which rests solely with the other side, the withdrawal of the remaining units of the Soviet Union's limited contingent has been suspended in accordance with a joint Afghan-Soviet understanding. Afghanistan continues to observe all of its undertakings arising from the Geneva accords, as it has so far. However, it is necesary for the other side put an end to the interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and the violation of the Geneva agreements.

BAKHTAR on Legitimacy of New Weapons
LD0511054488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 4, BAKHTAR—The Republic of Afghanistan has recently received modern weapons including long-range rockets in order to foil the subversive activities of the extremists and struggle against those armed groups which act against peace and security of the people and to defend the country against foreign aggressions and interferences.

It is the legitimate right of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan to receive modern weapons for defence of the country on the basis of the eleventh article of the Constitution of the country.

It is surprising that the authorities in Washington right after the broadcast of the news resorted to hue and cry in order to divert the public opinion from the fact and pretend that receiving the weapons by the Republic of Afghanistan is contrary to the Geneva agreements. While strengthening of the Armed Forces of the country is legitimate right of the people of Afghanistan and cannot be limited (?by any) agreement except the constitution of the country. [sentence as received]

The question is that why do the U.S. and Pakistani authorities not listen to the cries of those mothers and sisters who have lost their sons, husbands, and brothers as a result of the long-range U.S. rockets fired by the extremists on residential areas in Afghanistan. The extremists have received newly thousands other rockets from the U.S. and Pakistan.

Only in Kabul city over five hundred civilians including children, women, elders and youths have been killed by the U.S. rockets which had been put at the disposal of the extremists by Pakistani authorities in full contradiction to the provisions of the Geneva agreements.

Contrary to the fifth item of the second article of the Geneva agreements the United States and Pakistan have repeatedly violated the provisions of the said agreements and continue undeclared war against the Republic of Afghanistan with its full speed.

The United States and Pakistan have not yet given positive response to the proposals and peaceful initiatives of the Republic of Afghanistan and consider the proposals as weak points.

Refering to the concerns expressed by Charles Redman, a spokesman of the U.S. Foreign Ministry [as received], that the Soviet rockets can hit the western areas of

Pakistan it is to be pointed out that the Republic of Afghanistan never invaded any country and does [words indistinct] country to make aggression against the land of Afghans.

The leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan with the announcement of the national reconciliation policy and observance of the Geneva agreements have proved that they are struggling for peace. The Armed Forces of Afghanistan while being strengthening with the modern weapons have fully defensive character. However, the Armed Forces of the country are obliged to defend the independence, territorial integrity, peace, and security of the Republic of Afghanistan. Strengthening of the Armed Forces is the legal right of the people of Afghanistan and no one else has the right to criticize that.

Western Reaction Criticized

LD0611062988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 5, BAKHTAR—In relation to the delivery of modern armaments by the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan the Western mass medias have launched hue and cry and are trying to manifest it a violation of the Geneva Areements.

The Voice of America while reporting the news of the launching of the arms, has confessed that eight ground-to-ground rockets hit strongholds of the so-called mojahedins located on the eastern part of Afghanistan last Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Voice of Germany has also reported that the Armed Forces of Afghanistan attacked arms and ammunition depots of the opposition in the Marolagad area.

Allegations of the Western mass medias in relation to the delivery of armaments cannot be considered violation from Geneva agreements. For, Afghanistan has preserved and will preserve its right to strengthen defensive potential of the country in future.

The declaration of the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [as received] of the United States in this regard camouflages continued delivery of American armaments to the irreconcilable extremists. The Western mass medias have reported shipments to American arsenal including ground-to-air and ground-to-ground rockets, via Pakistan into Afghanistan during recent months.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Modern Arms

LD0711062488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 7 Nov 88

["Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Modern Armaments for Afghan Forces"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 6 BAKHTAR—As the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union had spared no efforts to achieve a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan and signing of Geneva agreements, have honestly observed and accomplished their commitments before these agreements, said a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan. [sentence as received]

It was on the basis of the said agreements that the return of limited military contingent of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan to their country started on May 15, 1988 and according to the time frame fixed, fifty percent of Soviet contingent left Afghanistan on August 15, 1988.

Presently Soviet limited military contingent do not exist in twenty five provinces of Afghanistan.

The people of Afghanistan which has become tired of long fratricidal war, after the signing of the Geneva agreements were hoping that observing the agreements would result to the ensurance of peace and security in the country on one side and solution of situation around the Republic of Afghanistan on the other.

Since present problems and circumstances which their solution require special measures are intolerable to the Republic of Afghanistan they require special measures and going out of it be adopted parallel to its complete readiness for conducting honest negotiations and dialogues with the opposition and keeping in view that solution of present conditions in the country is only possible through peaceful means. [sentence as received]

For the attainment of peace and preservation of independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the country the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan was forced to equip the Armed Forces with modern armaments.

The prevailing complicated political-military situation the responsibility of which solely rests on the other side, the return of the remaining military contingent of the Soviet Union back home suspended based on understanding reached upon between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. The Republic of Afghanistan, as it did in the past, observe all its commitments in relation to the fulfilling of Geneva agreements. But it is necessary that the other sides put an end to their interferences in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and terminate their violations from the provisions of the Geneva agreement.

Scud Missiles Used Against Mujahidin

BK0711035688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the Kabul administration's forces have once again used surface-to-surface Scud missiles against the mujanidin. Once before these missiles were used—in Konarha Province. Reports from Afghanistan say that three Soviet-made medium range missiles exploded in Sarkani Valley, Konarha Province, about

120 miles northeast of Kabul. However, there were no casualties. Earlier, the Kabul regime's forces launched two missile attacks against the mujahidin in Nangarhar Province.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin shot down a war plane near the Jalalabad airport last Thursday [3 November]. Another helicopter was destroyed in an attack on the Qandahar airport on Tuesday. Also destroyed was an ammunition depot and two oil tankers. The mujahidin attacked a military convoy in the southern part of the Salang tunnel in Parvan Province, damaging 10 oil tankers carrying 40 tons of oil. They have also attacked the Kabul regime's forces in Konduz and Paktia, killing 17 soldiers and wounding many others.

Mujahidin Attack Troops in Qandahar, Nangarhar
BK0611042088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have occupied the (Dhund) military post near Char Bagh in Qandahar Province. They inflicted heavy loss of life and material on the Kabul regime troops. The mujahidin also fired 120 rockets on Qandahar airport causing a fire in a large ammunition depot.

The mujahidin carried out fierce attacks on Kabul regime troops in and around Towr Kham in Nangarhar Province killing many troops and apprehending 180 others with their arms.

Another report says the mujahidin repulsed an attack by Kabul regime troops in an area in Laghman Province. The Kabul regime troops were forced to retreat after suffering heavy casualties.

Scud Missiles 'End' Seige of Qandahar
BK0711114988 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the Kabul regime troops are reported to have used the newly-installed Scud missiles to end the mujahidin's siege of Qandahar on Thursday last [3 November]. According to reports, missiles were fired on the southeast of Qandahar, close to the airport where the mujahidin had taken positions. These fell in Takhteh Pol area.

According to another report, the Kabul troops heavily bombed surrounding areas of Jalalabad and the liberated area of Chaprahar on Friday. Mujahidin also shot down a gunship helicopter in (Baghicha) and a MIG fighter in Ghani Kheyl area.

Islamabad Notes Mujahidin Offensive in Parvan
BK0411153488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have captured the Kabul administration's important military centers in the (Tappa Ahmed Beg) area in the (Najrab) area of Parvan Province. The siege of these centers has continued for the past 2 weeks. In this operation, the mujahidin destroyed two tanks and two military vehicles, and also seized three machine guns, five military vehicles and a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

According to reports, the pilots of the Indian airline company refuse to fly to Kabul airport in view of high security risk involved there. The last Indian airline flight to Kabul was 10 days ago. According to reports, the plane narrowly escaped a missile attack.

Kabul Details Latest Combat Activities
LD0611183588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] According to a report, the warmongering extremists have fired 1,500 surface-to-surface missiles and other heavy weapons during the past 3 days at Kowt-e 'Ashrow, Vardak Province. Once again they proved their hostility to the people's peaceful life, sacred places, and public establishments. As a result of the extremist missile attack, the communal mosque of Kowt-e 'Ashrow was destroyed and eight local people were badly injured, and a house and a public building were destroyed.

According to another report, during a surface-to-surface missile attack by the extremists, backed by Pakistan and the United States, on residential areas of the city of Qandahar the day before yesterday, a missile hit a bus which was heading toward Qandahar from the village of (Sanjari), martyring 30 people including women, elderly people, and children. Ten passengers were injured.

Another group of extremists fired heavy weapons at a passenger vehicle in the areas around Pol-e Matak, Parvan Province, yesterday. As a result of this crime by the extremists, 22 compatriots were injured and the vehicle was burned.

BIA reports that the Armed Forces have stepped up their mopping up operations. They have chalked up many victories every day, foiling the shameful plans of the extremists and crushing them. According to a report from Zabol Province, a number of the extremists belonging to the Gulbuddin band, who have been disrupting the peaceful life of the people for the past 40 days by firing rockets at the villages of Sham Juy, (Barakzay), (Haji Zarif), (Kharez), and (Kakojan), Zabol Province, were crushed yesterday in the course of a mopping up operation by the country's Armed Forces.

As a result, a ringleader of the Gulbuddin band known as (Moalam) and two other ringleaders of this group, (Haji Muhammad) and (Dawlat Khan), were killed in addition to 7 other extremists; 11 of these criminals were badly injured. In the course of this mopping up operation, four ZK-1's [not further identified] were destroyed.

According to another report, a number of extremists who intended to disrupt the peaceful life of our people in Sarowbi District, were crushed in the course of mopping up operations with the cooperation of the local people. As a result, 75 extremists were killed and 53 wounded. In the course of this operation, 4 systems for launching surface-to-surface missiles, 5 mortars, 4 DSHK's, 7 anti-tank mines, and 18 enemy hideouts were destroyed.

According to another report, an extremist group that was disrupting peace and security in the vicinity of Qandahar Province was crushed today. In the course of this mopping up operation, (?21) armed extremists were killed, and 5 rocket launchers, 1 mortar, and a DShK of these criminals were destroyed.

Also in the course of the mopping up operations by the country's Armed Forces, 20 extremist elements were killed in the region of Anar Darreh, Farah Province, and 15 of them badly wounded. A recoilless rifle, 10 boxes of Kalashnikov ammunition, 10 boxes of mortar shells, and 10 boxes of anti-personnel mines were seized, and an enemy arms and ammunition dump was burned. Also as a result of these operations 7 recoilless rifle shells, 20 rockets, 7 boxes of DShK shells, and 32 mortar shells were seized in areas of Farah Province.

According to another report, 12 surface-to-surface missiles which were ready to be fired at residential areas of [placename indistinct] District, Farah Province, were recently discovered and taken away by the country's Armed Forces.

According to reports by BAKHTAR's military section, the bloody armed clashes between the extremists groups resulting from disagreements among them have intensified and cost the lives of dozens of their members. As a result of the bloody clashes which took place recently between extremists in (Nijrab), Seyyed Karam, and Qal'eh-ye Sarkari Districts and in the surroundings of Konduz Province, 29 elements belonging to bands of Gulbuddin, Rabbani, and Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi were killed, and another 15 badly wounded.

BAKHTAR Cites 6 Nov Missile Attack on Kabul

LD0711061588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Kabul, Nov. 6, BAKHTAR—The armed extremist groups hae fired three surface-to-surface rockets on residential areas in different parts of Kabul city today which left behind three killed and six seriously wounded.

One of the rockets hit the surrounding areas of the embassies of the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan as a result of which two persons were killed and one was wounded. Another rocket hit Bagh Alimardan area which killed one person and wounded five others and a third one in Chaman Qalacheh which did not cause human casualty. [passage omitted]

340 'Extremists' Eliminated in Past 3 Days

LD0611072288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 5 BAKHTAR—The Armed Forces of the Republic have in separate operations eliminated over 340 extremists in the suburbs of the provinces of Qandahar, Herat, Zabol and Helmand and wounded 136 persons during the last three days.

For instance, 153 extremists were killed and 43 wounded in the suburbs of Qandahar city, 37 were killed and 8 injured in Gereshk District, Helmand Province. Similarly, 150 extremists were annihilated and 52 wounded in different areas related to Zabol Province. Similarly, a ringleader of extremists was also killed in Herat Province. A large quantity of the arms and ammunitions of the enemies were also captured during the operations.

Due to the clashes occurred between the extremist group of Gulbuddin and Sayyaf in Chak-e Wardak and Lowgar Province, twenty five persons belonging to Sayyaf extremist groups were killed and thirty three wounded. Four persons were also severely wounded from Gulbuddin extremists group.

The extremists had also placed a quantity of explosive materials adjacent to Shahrara Market which its explosion brought about financial losses.

Newspaper Says Pakistani F-16's Down 2 Planes

BK0611152288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1515 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 6 (AFP)—Pakistani fighter jets downed at least two Afghan military aircraft inside Afghan territory during the past week, the government-owned KABUL TIMES reported Sunday [6 November].

The KABUL TIMES said that two Pakistani Air Force F-16 fighters violated Afghan airspace in the Khowst region on Thursday and shot down an Air Force jet. A second Afghan jet, a trainer, was shot down the same day while on a training mission, the newspaper said, but gave no further details.

Last week Kabul lodged a protest with the Pakistan Embassy here, accusing Pakistani Air Force jets of regularly violating Afghan airspace.

Mujahidin Forces Kill 3 in Kabul Rocket Attack

BK0711075488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0750 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 7 (AFP)—Three people were killed and six seriously injured in a mujahidin resistance rocket attack on residential areas of Kabul Sunday, the official Afghan news agency BAKHTAR said Monday in a report monitored here.

Diplomatic sources here said that at least four people were killed when a rocket fell within 50 metres (yards) of the West German Embassy. Three other rockets also hit the capital, one at the airport, they said.

The BAKHTAR report said that three rockets hit residential areas of Kabul Sunday, including an area close to the Japanese and West German embassies.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said Sunday that three rockets fired by the resistance had hit Kabul but did not give any casualty figure.

Resistance sources here said Monday that Soviet troops had been sent recently to Qandahar, the second largest Afghan city, to aid Kabul troops under heavy attack from the mujahidin.

The new troops, based at the southeastern city's airport, wore "uniforms different from those of the Afghan Army," and were believed to come from the Soviet border regions of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, they added. They spoke a little Persian and Pashtun, the sources said.

Russian-speaking troops had appeared in recent weeks in northern Afghanistan, particularly in Konduz Province bordering the Soviet Union, other resistance sources said. They were specially-trained units and were involved in anti-guerrilla operations, they added.

The presence of new Soviet troops has not been confirmed independently.

Under a U.N.-mediated agreement between Pakistan and Afghanistan and guaranteed by Moscow and Washington, all Soviet troops are to be withdrawn from Afghanistan by mid-February. Moscow said last week it had temporarily halted the withdrawal because of an upsurge in the fighting.

India

Ruling Party Praises Gandhi on Maldives Action

BK0511091188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] The AICC [All India Congress Committee] session has adopted unanimously the draft resolution on international affairs. The resolution, which deals with the entire gamut of the country's foreign policy, urges the government to renew its efforts for a settlement of all issues with China in a manner acceptable to the peoples of both countries. It expresses the hope that the proposed visit of the prime minister to China will set in motion the dynamic process of revitalization of relations between the two countries.

On Pakistan, the resolution notes that despite India's efforts to normalize relations, there has been a lack of response from the Government of Pakistan. It expresses deep concern over Pakistan's relentless pursuit of the clandestine weapons-oriented nuclear program.

On Sri Lanka, the resolution hopes that the Tamil militant group opposing the restoration of democratic processes will realize the futility of their stand, eschew violence, surrender arms, and support the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. It appreciates the Peacekeeping Force's performance under difficult circumstances.

The resolution takes note of the continuing improvement in India's bilateral relations with the United States. It urges Washington to review its policy of arms supply to Pakistan to de-escalate the arms buildup in the region.

The resolution extends all support to the strengthening of Indo-Soviet ties. It welcomes the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq. It urges the government to vigorously pursue the nuclear weapon-free world plan launched by the prime minister.

The mover of the resolution, Mr Narasimha Rao, who also replied to the discussion, strongly demanded complete and total disarmament. He said mutual mistrust among the nations is the cause of stockpiling of arms and emphasized that this mistrust should be removed. The resolution was seconded by Mr B.R. Bhagat.

In a separate resolution, the AICC congratulated the prime minister on his farsighted action in rushing assistance to foil the plot hatched to destabilize the democratically elected Government of Maldives. It complemented the Armed Forces for their speedy operation in a difficult time frame and extended all good wishes to President Gayoom and the people of Maldives. AICC is now discussing the draft resolution on women. It recommends a reservation of 30 percent seats for women in all elected bodies and also in government committees till at least 2000 AD.

Reportage on Continuing Violence in Punjab

Security Forces 'Alerted'

BK0511083388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] In Punjab, the security forces all over the state have been alerted and day and night patrolling intensified in view of the recent spurt in terrorist violence. The raids on the suspected hideouts of the terrorists are continuing and special check-posts have been set up on strategic routes.

A farmer was shot dead by terrorists in Chuck Murana village in Ferozepore District late last night. With the death of two more injured persons in the hospital, the toll in yesterday's bomb blast in Batala town has risen to 20. The indefinite curfew clamped in the town yesterday evening continues.

The death toll in last night's shoot-out at Ladubagh in Ludhiana District has risen to 19 with 3 more persons succumbing to their injuries.

5 'Terrorists' Killed

BK0511130288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] In Punjab, five terrorists were killed in 3 different encounters with police in Amritsar District early this morning. Security forces all over the state have been alerted and day and night patrolling intensified in view of the recent spurt in terrorist violence. The raids on the suspected hideouts of the terrorists are continuing and special checkposts have been set up on all strategic routes.

'Terrorists' Shoot 7

BK0611034288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead seven persons including a woman and a home guard jawan [soldier] in two incidents last night. In Gurdaspur District, terrorists struck in village Darapur and gunned down five persons. In Faridkot, terrorists intruded into a house in Balbir Basti and opened fire at the inmates. As a result the house lady was killed, while her husband and two daughters were seriously injured. The terrorists while escaping shot dead a home guard jawan on patrol duty in the locality.

In Amritsar District, the timely arrival of a police patrol party on hearing the sound of gunshots averted terrorist killing in village Madra in Ramdas area last evening. The two terrorists, who were firing in the village, on seeing the police party fled the scene leaving behind some arms and ammunition.

In Amritsar, one terrorist was arrested by the security forces from Ajnala area of Amritsar District last night. A foreign made pistol and some ammunition were recovered from him.

Meanwhile, the curfew clamped in Batala town on Friday is continuing. The police chief, Mr K.P.S. Gill, is camping in Amritsar to constantly review the situation. He told newsmen in Amritsar that no unlawful assembly will be allowed inside or outside the Golden Temple complex during Diwali [Hindu festival of lights].

Meanwhile the PCC-I [Pradesh, State Congress Committee-I], Mr Beants Singh, has appealed to all the political parties to mobilize public opinion against the heinous crime and to work for promotion of communal harmony. The president of the Peruman Akali Dal, Mr Sevadas, demanded effective measures to deal with the situation.

'Terrorists' Kill Official

BK0711075788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] The chairman of the Bhakra-Beas [irrigation project] management board, Major General B.N. Kumar, was shot dead by some car-borne terrorists in Chandigarh this morning. According to an official spokesman, Gen Kumar's P.A. [personal assistant] and assistant executive engineer received serious bullet injuries and have been admitted to hospital. The general was attacked at his official residence in Sector 45. The police in the union territory and adjoining areas in Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh has been alerted.

In Punjab, the curfew has been lifted in Batala. The curfew was imposed on Friday [4 November] following a series of bomb blasts in Chakri Bazar area of the town. Officials told newsmen today that life is fast returning to normal. All offices, commercial and business establishments are working normally and transport services have been restored. However, more security pickets have been set up to keep round-the-clock vigil.

Laser Glass Developed for Nuclear Industry

BK0711094588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Indian scientists claim to have developed indigenous laser glasses for application in defense and nuclear fields. Researchers at the Central Glass and Ceramics Research Institute—CGCRI—in Calcutta have produced silicate laser glasses for plasma application in nuclear reactors. The laser glasses produced by CGCRI were evaluated by Bhabha Atomic Research Center—BARC—and found to yield 50 percent higher energy output when compared to the imported ones of similar type.

Iran

Khomeyni Urges Debates on 'Controversial Topics'

LD0711083988 Tehran IRNA in English 1007 GMT 7 Nov 88

["Imam Khomeyni Encourages Free Expression for Ultimate Best"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—The leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, has again encouraged scholarly debates between members of the 'ulema and laymen over controversial topics of the day without prejudice to the foundation of the Islamic statehood.

He has assured the 'ulema and advocates of opposing views, in relation with the various aspects of statecraft, that inasmuch as the modern pattern of life is different from what it was at the advent of Islam multiplicity of academic and personal opinions with regard to Islamic propriety is a logical consequence of the modern and complex life style and the administration of state.

The imam's views as reflected in his reply to an inquiry by a prominent member of his bureau has been printed in the Monday November 17 [as received] issue of the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

In a detailed reply to a letter by Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari who has requested a conclusive judgment by the imam on his personal position in relation to either of the diverging ideological orientations in Iran, the imam has approved both and neither with an emphasis on free expression and unhampered scholarship as a course most likely to lead the nation to the ultimate best.

The hojjat ol-eslam who is associated with Imam Khomeyni has openly expressed wonder why on previous occasions the imam has equally upheld either group ignoring the essentially different outlooks betwen the two of them and allowing them to defend their outlooks to the point of friction. He has said that the imam's personal approach to the topic has left many fervent Muslims in the dark as to which is the more consistent with the shari'ah laws of Islam.

Ranking high among the various debates in certain circles is the question of government control of national and foreign trade versus a free or totally free trade with almost unlimited elbow room by the private sector in Iran. Proponents of either have continued to defend their outlooks on the basis of their interpretation of the holy Koran and traditional religious documents and other sources.

In his open letter to his bureau member the imam has reminded that many of the social, economic and other topics about which a consensus of opinion does not exist today used to be topics of hot debates among the 'ulema in the past. But, he has added, the fact of the absence of a converging opinion on any of those topics is no ground on which to decide that advocates of either arguments had treaded a course counter to true Islam.

Imam Khomeyni has said that as a rule academic argument should be given a high place in Islam and be encouraged rather than suppressed in the interest of dogmatic interpretations and authoritarian outlooks.

In his letter he has said that he has full faith in the good will of both groups and that he does not see any reason why he should do or say anything by way of terminating a productive debate.

Elsewhere on the same topic the imam has alerted both sides as well as the people at large that much as they may find themselves at loggerheads in relation with specific topics, they have such "beastly" foreign enemies as the United States and the Soviet Union both of which, he has said, have destructive designs on Iran and Muslims.

He has recommended that irrespective of side issues proponents of either outlooks should bear in mind that they have common enemies capable of harming them if they happen to be divided.

Imam Khomeyni has referred to the Soviet Government and the United States as "the two colonialist demons" and recommended close adherence to a policy independent of either of the power poles in the interest of Islam and the country's integrity."

The imam, however, has warned against any tendency among advocates of either opinions to go to the extremes or to try to defame the other side, or indulge in selfishness and self-centerism. He has advised both sides to be ultimately more concerned about the revolution and the eventual good of the nation rather than their own ideological platform.

Further on Khomeyni Reply

LD0711130588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1120 GMT 7 Nov 88

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] A look at some of the headlines of this afternoon's Tehran newspapers shows the following: In the imam of the ummah's reply to the letter from Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Ansari, the imam of the ummah called on the factions loyal to the revolution to maintain principles and unity in the struggle against capitalism and communism. The two currents [jariyan] must, with full friendship, keep an eye on the world-devouring United States and the treacherous-to-the-Islamic-ummah Soviet Union.

Thus both currents must make the people vigilant because it is true that the cunning United States is their number one enemy, but their dear children have become martyred by the Soviet Union's bombs and missiles. Neither current must ever overlook the ploys of the two colonialist monsters [div]. They must know that the United States and the Soviet Union are thirsty for the blood of Islam and its independence.

Warranted and constructive criticism leads to societal growth. If criticism is fair, it will help guide both currents. No one must think himself absolute or exempt from criticism. Of course, criticism is more that personal and peripheral confrontation. Mere theological scholarship [ejtehad] in seminaries is not enough. Rather, even if a person is most learned in seminaries' science of logic [reference to Islamic jurisprudence] but is unable to

judge the interests of the society or is unable to discriminate between pure and useful people from impure people; if he is, on the whole, devoid of the correct insight and a decisionmaking capacity from the social and political point of view, that person is not a theological scholar [mojtahed] in social and governmental affairs and cannot take over the reins of society.

If, within this system, an individual or a group, God forbid, has the unjust idea of excluding or destroying others, if he considers the interest of his own faction and line as taking precedence over the interest of the revolution, he will undoubtedly harm Islam and the revolution before inflicting a blow on his rival or rivals. [passage omitted]

His eminence the imam, in reply to a letter from Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari asking about his eminence's views regarding various factions, the revolution's principles in the country, and their duties, said that writing about scientific [ta'lif-e 'olum] matters and striving to do away with bad feelings and bringing positions closer, is undoubtedly subject to God's satisfaction. Through the exchange of constructive ideas and thoughts, the path of rivalries must be cleansed of pollution and deviation and of extremes [on the side of excess or abstinence]. I once again reiterate that, in the course of reconstruction and construction, our country needs meditation, unity, brotherhood.

Khomeyni Receives Families of Martyrs, POW's

LD0611115888 Tehran Domestic Service in Perisn 1030 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, the Islamic revolution's great leader, received the following this morning at his Jamaran mosque: families of martyrs, MIA's, POW's, and disabled fighters from Sabzevar in Khorasan Province; families of martyred migrants [people who were driven from their homes due to the war] from Abadan and Khorramshahr; families of martyrs from Bandar-e Mahshahr and Sar Bandar, families of martyrs from Shahr-e Rey, children of martyrs from Rasht and Langrud; Majlis deputies from those towns; the disabled and cripped athletes who took part in the Seoul Olympics; and Mr Mazaheri, the director of the Oppressed Foundation.

In this meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, the representative of his holiness the imam and director of the Martyrs Foundation, first expressed his condolences to the imam of the ummah over the passing of the learned Ayatollah Khatami. While introducing the esteemed families of martyrs, MIA's, POW's, and disabled, he expressed his appreciation for the self-sacrifice and devotion of all those families.

Referring to the presence of the disabled in the Seoul Olympics, he said: Although from a physical point of view they are disabled, they enjoy high morale and great spirit. This brave spirit has helped them win honors for the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Olympics. In this meeting, Mr Karrubi conveyed the appreciation, congratulations, and condolences of the imam of the ummah to the families of martyrs, MIA's, and disabled.

At the end of this meeting the imam of the ummah responded to the enthusiasm of those present.

Iranian Toilers Radio Cites Montazeri Letter

LD0511142288 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] A strongly worded letter, bearing Montazeri's signature and addressed to Prime Minister Musavi has been published. After the jolt from Musavi—the prime minister's letter to Khamene'i and the reply to it—this is the second important document which, as a result of strong disagreements, has leaked out of the crack in the edifice of the regime. In his letter, Musavi had accused Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani of having a hand in terrorist activities and of establishing secret links with U.S. imperialism. In his reply, Khamene'i had accused Musavi of abuse of power and of a betrayal of the Islamic revolution.

Now, in the new letter with Montazeri's signature and seal which has been published, as well as containing an admission of the wretched state of the country, the paralysis of the economy, and the crisis confronting the regime, Musavi and his government are accused of ineptitude in running affairs.

The preparation and publication of such letters speak of the fact that some of the regime's leaders, who seeing the approach of Khomeyni's death and because of their fear of an all-encompassing crisis and of the people's increasing anger and hatred, are trying to find an escape route for the regime by adopting reformist positions and, at the same time, to exempt themselves in some way from the innumerable treacheries and crimes of the Islamic legal system.

AFP: Mojahedin-e Khalq Members Executed

NC0411164388 Paris AFP in English 1510 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 4 (AFP)—Iran's main armed opposition group, the Mojahedin-e Khalq, said Friday that Tehran has executed hundreds of the group's supporters in recent weeks.

The Baghdad-backed group said more than 20 noncommissioned officers and soldiers as well as a champion wrestler were among those executed.

Seventeen Iranian soldiers who refused to fight the Iranian National Liberation Army—the Mojahedin's military wing—during a July raid into Iran were also killed by the "Khomeyni regime," according to the

communique published here. The statement said that two officers and two other soldiers who refused to obey orders were hanged in public in the western Iranian town of Kermanshah.

Three women were put before a firing squad in the northern town of Zanjan, while 13 other partisans were shot in Mashhad in the east and 50 were killed in the northern town of Arak, it said.

A United Nations report Wednesday slammed Iran for alleged human rights abuses, including continued execution of political prisoners and the use of torture.

Cease-Fire Talks With Iraq Continue in Geneva

Velayati, Perez de Cuellar Meet

LD0411180588 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] This morning Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati met with the UN secretary general in Geneva and discussed the secretary general's four-point plan. After meeting with Velayati the UN secretary general also met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. According to a UNITED PRESS report, the secretary general's mediation efforts aim to break the deadlock on withdrawing forces from frontline positions and releasing and exchanging POW's.

The UN secretary general said: Yesterday's discussions between Iranian and Iraqi experts in the presence of UN envoys made considerable progress; the main topic of these discussions was the four-point plan.

Without giving any details, Perez de Cuellar said that he is trying to implement that plan. Meanwhile, the Iranian delegation head at yesterday's discussions said: The two sides discussed the withdrawal of forces and freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf. Quoting UN diplomatic sources and referring to current efforts to make progress in the Geneva discussions, Kuwait's AL-WATAN newspaper wrote that Iraq no longer insists on its sovereignty over the Arvand River.

Velayati, 'Aziz Hold 3d Meeting

LD0511155088 Tehran IRNA in English 1502 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 5, IRNA—Iranian and Iraqi delegations headed by their foreign ministers met for the third time in a week to try to break the deadlock at the U.N.-mediated peace talks.

Iran's foreign minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz made no comment as they arrived for the talks at the U.N. Headquarters here Saturday afternoon.

"Just be patient," said U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to waiting reporters.

Today's negotiations are expected to be especially important because of Perez de Cuellar's plan to leave for Paris and New York this afternoon.

He said he hoped for a breakthrough before leaving. "Both sides know very well that I intend not to go back to new York empty handed," he said at the start of the latest round of peace talks on Oct 31.

The secretary general and the U.N. Security Council are believed to favour the pull back of troops by both sides to consolidate the ceasefire that came into effect on August 20. Iraq has rejected this.

The delegations are meeting in plenary for the first time since Wednesday. The two foreign ministers held separate talks with Perez de Cuellar yesterday.

So far no progress has been reported in the talks. Both sides have clarified their positions on troop withdrawals and freedom of navigation in detailed talks between their experts.

Negotiations are expected to continue under the mediation of U.N. special representative Jan Eliasson in Perez de Cuellar's absence.

Cease-Fire Commitment Affirmed

LD0511183488 Tehran IRNA in English 1804 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 5, IRNA—Foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq meeting here to reach a permanent settlement of the eight year old war have renewed their commitment to the ceasefire, mediator U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said.

"I am pleased that we have had a reaffirmation of the commitment to the ceasefire," Perez de Cuellar said after having face-to-face talks with the two delegations Saturday.

"The political determination to abide by the ceasefire was very clear during the talks," he added.

The secretary general who leaves tonight for Paris on his way to New York did not give a positive response to questions whether any progress had been made on the main issues such as withdrawal of troops to international borders.

Ministerial talks will continue Monday under the mediation of Special U.N. Representative Jan Eliasson.

"I would mislead you if I told you we had fantastic progress during this first part of these meetings in my presence," Perez de Cuellar said.

"I hope very much that in the presence of Ambassador Eliasson more real concrete progress is made. I am never a disappointed man," he added.

Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati said after the talks that lack of agreement from Iraq on the withdrawal of troops was still the main obstacle facing progress.

"I think that still the problem is the problem of the withdrawal of troops and withdrawal is the key element for the progress," he said.

"We do hope that the other side will accept to implement Resolution 598 (now) that the ceasefire is in place. The withdrawal is the next step that should be implemented immediately," he added.

Iraq has not spelled out its position in the latest round of peace negotiations, the third since August 25, but appears to remain stubborn on its demand for the clearing of the Arvand River prior to or at least simultaneous with the withdrawal of troops.

Asked whether Iran would accept a preliminary pull back of forces two or three hundred meters from their present positions, Velayati said such a proposal had not been put forward.

"It (partial withdrawal) cannot solve the problem," he stressed. "Nobody could be allowed to have its own interpretation from the resolution... in that case we will face chaos."

Resolution 598 calls for the withdrawal of troops as the second stage of peace process. Iran has insisted that the order of the resolution must not change.

Iran agrees "in principle" with Perez de Cuellar's four-point plan to implement Resolution 598, Velayati said, but Iraq did not.

"The secretary general is the man who guides the talks," Iran's foreign minister said.

Iraq's foreign minister Tariq 'Aziz did not clarify his country's position on the talks but hoped to reach agreements on the issues being discussed. "But of course it depends on two sides, not only one side."

The talks will continue at ministerial level Monday.

Joint News Conference

NC0611071788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] The UN secretary general and our foreign minister attended a news conference at the end of the joint session of the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq in Geneva yesterday.

[Begin recorded telephone report by correspondent in Geneva] On the eve of his return to New York and at the end of the joint session of the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq, which was held Saturday afternoon in his presence at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar expressed his hope to correspondents that progress will be achieved during the talks in the coming week. He said the political decision to maintain the cease-fire was extremely manifest throughout the talks. In a short statement, he said the meeting on the ministerial level will continue on Monday under the auspices of his representative Mr Jan Eliasson. The UN secretary general also stressed: The only reason I am going to New York is to attend the UN General Assembly session and my departure will not delay the talks whatsoever.

Our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, also stated at the end of this session that the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to stress the need to implement Resolution No 598 and no one should be permitted to interpret the resolution unilaterally. He said: When both sides have accepted the resolution, they should also be ready to implement it on the basis of the UN secretary general's policy and implementation plan. Any personal interpretation of the resolution will only lead to confusion. Our foreign minister reemphasized that immediate withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized borders, as a first step after the cease-fire, is a key issue, and expressed hopes that Iraq will accept implementation of Resolution No 598.

Iraq's foreign minister also spoke at the end of the session and described the talks as useful, adding that one cannot speak of outcomes at this juncture.

This is the news group of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva. [end recording]

Velayati Meets Refugee Official

LD0611160088 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 5, IRNA—The Iranian foreign minister helds talks with head of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) here Saturday on issues related to Iraqi and Afghan refugees in Iran.

Jean-Pierre Hocke appreciated the Islamic Republic's humanitarian stands on the refugee issue.

Islamic Iran is hosting nearly 2 million Afghans fleeing Soviet occupation, while Iraqi Muslims who have sought asylum during the imposed war number over half a million. In addition, 36,000 Iraqi Kurds have recently crossed into Iran, following Saddam Husayn's chemical genocide after a cease-fire ended his 8 year war.

'Ali Akbar Velayati is in Geneva for the U.N. mediated Iran-Iraq peace talks.

Commentary Views Latest Talks

NC0711085988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0545 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Unattributed commentary from the "Voice of the Front" feature: "Talk of the Day"]

[Text] Compared with the previous rounds, the latest round of talks between the Iranian and Iraqi representative delegations in Geneva are witnessing more developments and moves. The talks have assumed a higher degree of significance in this round now that the UN secretary general has presented a new plan for the implementation of Clauses 2 and 3 of Resolution No 598. All parties concerned anticipate new developments in the curent round of talks, which are being held under the direct supervision of the UN secretary general and his special emissary. The results attained so far indicate that the stalemate has been broken finally and that the implementation of tne substance of Resolution No 598 is proceeding along its principled trend in a correct manner.

The outcome of this round of talks and the Iraqi foreign minister's swift declaration of his country's intention not to raise the issue of the Arvand River [Shatt al-'Arab] outside the framework of the resolution is, in fact, a major victory for the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomacy within the confines of the peace talks between the two countries. A cursory glance at the talks from the 1st day to the present reveals that, despite all of the Iraqi regime's obstructionism and pronouncements of unprincipled preconditions, which served only to waste time, bring the talks to an impasse, and delay the precise implementation of Resolution No 598, the Islamic Republic of Iran did not accept any kind of precondition.

Iran is following a definite policy based on principles previously announced. It also is insisting exact implementation of the international regulations. By announcing its logical and principled position, Iran also has delineated the course by which results could be attained in the talks. This course, simply, was the unconditional implementation of Resolution No 598 in a precise and systematic manner. As was to be expected, the Iraqi ruling regime did not have any thing solid to contribute to the talks and, as a result, merely strove to stall for time. Obviously, it could not pursue this strategy for a long period of time. The Islamic Republic of Iran's principled moves enmeshed Iraq, which was forced to accept what was logical. Thus, new developments were encountered in the fourth round of talks, which continue in Geneva, finally resulting in a positive step which benefits the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At this juncture, it would be appropriate to stress that the Islamic Republic of Iran's representative delegation has been able to defend the Iranian position in a categorical manner throughout the course of the talks and to overtly proclaim their truthful position solely because of its confidence in you, the fighters of Islam, who remain and will continue to remain on the scene. It was only because of your support, the courageous forces of Islam, and the delegation's certainty of your vigilant presence on the countries' borders that the Islamic Republic of Iran constantly proclaims its intention never to accept any precondition, and that the only way to proceed is for Iraq to accept Resolution No 598. Nothing, not even the resumption of the war, will dissuade us from our position.

Next Round of Talks With UK To Open in Vienna

LD0711110488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The third round of talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Britain will start in Vienna tomorrow. IRNA reports that the Foreign Ministry director general for European affairs and head of the Iranian delegation said on the eve of his departure for Vienna that for a long time now Britain has been expressing interest in normalizing relations. Bilateral talks only came about after it was felt that that country had improved its position toward Iran. [passage omitted]

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0411191088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 4 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] We shall now embark on our important talk today. Today, 4 November holds an important place in the history of our revolution and in the course of our Islamic struggles. It was fitting that we found an appropriate name for this day. The Majlis deputies thought about this subject, and on the eve of this historic occasion they discussed and approved a proposal in the Majlis to call it the National Day of Campaign Against Global Arrogance. This is a very appropriate name for 4 November. Today I want to talk a little about the consequence of the events that occured on that day and how they have affected our society.

Three important events have taken place on this day by chance in recent history, that is from 1343 or 1344 [years starting from 21 March 1964 or 1965] up to 1361 [year starting on 21 March 1981] or 1360. During these 10, 15 years three related events happened, all of which followed the same course, all of which have the same analysis, the same roots, and the same consequences. Today is also historically important because this year we are celebrating this day after our Unity Week during which we discussed various issues concerning the unity of the Islamic community. On the eve of the celebration of this great national day this year our people's attention is focused on the issue of Islamic unity. These two matters are connected. Together they give shape to an

issue of concern for us, that of the Islamic characteristics of all Muslims of the world against all world blasphemy which is today manifested in the form of world arrogance.

A secret war is being waged behind the true nature of the events of our contemporary world. It is an undeclared but real, serious, all-out war. This war takes certain forms. We can see the effects of this war in the events of 4 November. There are thousands of other effects which concern other historical facts. The reality is that world arrogance, which is on the whole based on a blasphemous and anti-Islamic ideology, is seriously fighting against true Islam. They are deeply worried lest the Islamic community, true Islam, pure Islam, one day might occupy its rightful position in history against them.

It is a fact that in the world there are approximately 1 billion Muslims; now even more. They have about 50 countries, and they also possess some of the most vital resources of the world. They have a very rich culture. They enjoy a powerful ideology, and there are many elements of unity among them. The instruction of the Koran which is a significant bond among Islamic societies is today reaching the ears of the Muslims of the world. This is a reality well known to the satans of world arrogance; and they know it better than we do. Today with their satellites they have discovered the whole world—and might have even excavated the depths of the earth. And they seriously and carefully follow military and economic equations. They have been made fully aware of the importance, value, and greatness of these Islamic and human resources.

Therefore, long ago they began to make plans to prevent this great body of human beings from uniting around this divine cord [reference to a Koranic verse calling on the Muslims to take hold of God's cord and be united]. They began to think ahead about the serious danger that would threaten them if the order "Take hold of the cord of God and do not be disunited" were implemented, and they mobilized all their forces to forestall this danger.

Of course, one of the currents they follow very closely, and perhaps one of the first instructions to all the agents of Western and Eastern arrogance is to watch closely Islamic movements. Wherever they find that a movement is taking shape based on Islam they are instructed to crush that movement or to divert it. There are some movements that can be suppressed, but there are some that cannot, and these should be diverted. There are also some movements that can be prevented, and they stop those movements even before they are launched.

You can see this in most countries. If one is careful one can see this in North Africa, Central Africa, and East Africa. In Asia one can see this almost everywhere, in West Asia, Central Asia, East Asia, South Asia, North Asia, in European countries, in American countries, inside socialist countries. Whenever they encounter a movement like the profound Islamic movement, which has occasionally been very effective in history and has manifested itself in the form of an explosion, they are instructed to smash that movement. They are very sensitive about this movement. There are numerous proofs of this. Apart from the information we receive through intelligence channels, even the remarks of the leaders of world arrogance themselves clearly demonstrate this fact. They are very sensitive. [passage omitted]

What concerns us today is the issue of the movement led by the clergy in Iran, and the uprising of the clergy under the leadership of his holiness the imam. One of the historical facts among thousands of others the banishment of his holiness the imam, which is relevant today. We know that he was exiled from Iran when he started to fight very openly against the United States. The issue of capitulation and legal immunity was raised. In accordance with an agreement, Western, particularly American, advisers and agents in Iran could not be tried in the domestic and independent courts of Iran.

They were tried in such a manner that if they committed an offense the court proceedings were in their own hands so that the Iranian courts could not punish them. When this bill was drafted and approved by the Majlis, the imam started his struggle against it. The United States immediately reacted, and we saw that the imam was banished to Turkey. The choice of the place of exile was in itself very indicative of international connections.

Among our special days, Students Day also holds a special place. In this very university and on this ground we witnessed the massacre of students. In those days anti-U.S. slogans were at their height. We have had many such days in the history of our struggles in the last few years, in many cities, in Tehran, in various squares, from various groups. But what concerns us today is the fact that it was school and university students who were massacred in such a tragic way by the executioners of the regime in and around the university.

Finally, we had the day of the occupation of the den of espionage when we had the clearest example of the clash betwen arrogance and the revolution, the clearest example of the confrontation between Islam and blasphemy. However, this time the attack started on our side. On the other two occasions the enemy started the attack. In this case Islam started the attack and the revolution took revenge on arrogance. All of us have heard the story. We know its details, and it has been often discussed. On that day in 1979 they tried to divest the revolution of its meaning.

I said earlier that at times they try to suppress the revolution before it starts, but if they do not succeed they try to divert its course. They have much experience using the second option in various revolutions. Most revolutions that have taken place in the world have been subverted by the East or the West, through their well tried methods although at the beginning they were

national and popular and were initiated by the masses. This is not something very mysterious which the people do not know. It is very clear to everyone that this is their method.

The moment they became aware that the Iranian revolution was unshakable, that the shah had fled, the government had been overthrown, the revolutionary committee formed, the government established, and the people had truly revolted and taken control, then they harbored the idea of crushing the revolution from within, while weighing the possibility of foreign conspiracies. Their main idea, however, was to restore the monarchy although in a different form and based on their policies. The documents taken from the nest of spies and published by the students following the line of the imam have well clarified these issues for those who have read about what they did, how they purchased and placed a number of corrupt individuals still resident in Iran, in the U.S. nest of spies, and how they had renewed old ties and placed them outside. They were briefed inside, intending to infiltrate the government, and at the time they envisaged such possibilities for themselves in the executive system.

However, the issue became more or less clear, and the proper action took place, revealing the secrets of the United States and others. They began the fireworks themselves. Those who masterminded this scheme sent the shah off to the United States in ignorance. This was one of their hazardous moves. Had they not taken the shah with them and been more cautious, perhaps then they would have been more successful in their conspiracy.

Here and there some issues became apparent: the domestic issues, some remarks by a few of the executives, their actions and affiliations frightened the younger section; and with the leadership's approval and that of the country's revolutionary officials this action was taken. This assault on the United States was unique and unprecedented in world history. It should be mentioned however, that the issue of a country attacking arrogance, the massacares and assaults on them, has occurred many times. [passage omitted]

But the phenomenon here in Iran, in which a number of influential officials of a superpower such as the United States were captured and held hostage for more than 1 year while the United States could not do a damn thing—it was even defeated when trying to launch a military expeditionary force—was a remarkable [word indistinct] and unprecendented. Maybe until today the general opinion has been that if such an incident took place, the United States would crush and create a bloodbath in that country. In the world of the U.S. President at that time the popular ideas was to solve the crisis in Iran with an atom bomb. Their thoughts went as far as that.

Such a remarkable incident took place at a time when we had our Kurds, there were countries not on good terms with us, while inside the country the revolution was still trying to establish itself, the Army was still not organized, the police force, the Guards Corps and the revolutionary committees had not been properly mobilized, and we had no proper security and intelligence systems. This country was being run through people's efforts, with the aid of the ambitious and enthusiastic youth. At such a time the revolution managed to stand on its feet. Yes, the initiative was taken by the students, but approval came from the entire system and from the leadership. [passage omitted]

In view of our circumstances at that time when some of the world's diplomats came for a visit they would express their amazement and disbelief. They would say: How can a nation show such self-reliance in the face of an arrogant superpower, and how can it embark so fearlessly on a battle against arrogance? At any rate, it was a heroic and great situation, and it was made possible through the general support of the public. It was made possible and it was done.

Bearing in mind that situation, we consider the confrontation between Islam and blasphemy, the confrontation of global arrogance and global Islam, was crystalized in that incident and in previous incidents, which relate to today. We must not be simplistic and say, for example, that if that incident had not occurred between Iran and the United States, between Islam and the United States—it is not enough to say Iran in this case—then there would have been no state of aggression or enmity between Islam and the United States. No, I believe it would be unfair if we were to make that assessment.

The truth of the matter is that the United States and the likes of the United States—it is not confined to the United States—all the world's arrogant powers cannot accept that there should exist in the face of their interests in the world an invitation to the world for Islamic unity and a restoration of the Islamic personality for one fourth of the world's population. They find that difficult to accept. Now, even if we confront them with that in a calm and diplomatic manner, they do not want it. If we confront them in a severe manner and with armed confrontation, again they would not want it. Their interests, existence, integrity, hegemony, their arrogant spirit, the results of their several-centuries-long activities in the world, their colonialism are all incompatible with an Islamic movement, regardless of the manner of confrontation.

So the essence of the matter is that the real quarrel, the fundamental battle between pure Islam and pure arrogance does not depend on the manner of its manifestation. That is the issue. We must be prepared on that basis. Of course, giving pretexts to the enemy, the superficial manifestation of the matter can vary. If through special diplomatic methods one can deprive them of excuses, that is good. However, their capacity for making excuses is not insignificant either. To create pretexts, their own agents can manufacture incidents and drag a country in the direction they want. Have we not

had such incidents in Iran? For example, there would be an issue like the old-style water fountains, and then there would suddenly be a crisis [reference to an incident when an American who took a photograph of a fountain, which allegedly had water with healing powers, was turned upon by a religiously inspired mob and killed]. On another occasion a Shi'ite and a Sunni would be quarelling and there would suddenly be a huge incident. Is that not how the world is today?

If we thus consider the matter in depth, if we address it with perspicuity, we will discover the reality. Of course, the most important pillar of the movement for world Islamic achievement is political management. Undoubtedly, if 1 or 2 of the 50 Islamic countries in the world—this huge world and a world under the hegemony of Satan, a world caught up in a hell of arrogance—if for the sake of Islam they want to fight all the world's satans, those two countries will not be able to attain those great aims. They may achieve independence for themselves, but that is not a world Islamic movement. A world Islamic movement needs unity. Unfortunately, that is our weak point.

There is no doubt that the Islamic revolution in Iran desires Islamic unity, with just that outlook of which I spoke. Read the constitution. You will see this in the constitution—the constitution has been written by a group of our first-rate 'ulema; it cannot be said of them that they were caught up in fanatical ideas, they had a sanguine view [khosh binaneh barkhord mikardand]; They prepared those laws as Muslims and Islamic experts. In the constitution all of Islam, all Muslims have been considered as a unified ummah. In the constitution, although the constitution was written by Iranians for Iranians who speak Persian, Arabic is recognized as the language of the Islamic ummah, because it is the language of the Koran. It takes the book, the axis of the movement, to be the Koran; a Koran which is written in Arabic. The axis is Islam rather than Iran. On this basis we became obliged to give priority in our relations to the world of Islam to the Islamic countries because the goal is an Islamic movement.

Unfortunately, the world circumstances and the maliciousness which still exists among many prevent this Islamic movement from happening. We have not been able to remove the causes of division. On the contrary, the enemy has succeeded because of the presence of pure Islam and revolutionary Islam, independent and unallied Islam, for which Iran is the base. The enemy has succeeded on that point in frightening the rulers of the Islamic world and in forcing them to adopt positions, intensifying political or other forms of struggle among Muslims.

Earlier, arrogance would not invest so much effort to create divisions. They present the difference between Iran and a certain Arab country, which has nothing to do with Shi'ites and Sunnis, as a difference between Shi'ites and Sunnis. They present it as a war between Shi'ites and Sunnis. In Lebanon, which has become one of the bases of the Islamic movement, you can see the positions reveal what the battle involves. Iraq, a Muslim Arab country, becomes in Lebanon the ally of the military, Zionist, Maronite government. How can that be interpreted?

One is really dumbfounded when a country, more than 90 percent Muslim, a country which has apparently struggled for years on behalf of Arabism—its every slogan is Arabism—when it wants to enter Lebanon, a triangle is formed, one side of which is Israel, one side Maronism, and one side Iraqi Ba'thism. How does one interpret that? How can one interpret it other than by saying it is the battle between blasphemy and Islam? Muslims in Lebanon, Shi'ites and Sunnis collectively, are becoming a power opposing Christianity—and not even a religious Christianity, at that, a political Christianity whose crystallization is the Maronites and Phalangists, a Lebanese version of which, such as Antoine Lahd, fights against the Lebanese and defends for Israel the land Israel has taken, defends it against Lebanon. Such people cannot be Lebanese. In a place where Zionism and Maronism are inseparable we find that the third side of the triangle is formed by the Iraqi Ba'th Party and unfortunately Libya, too, says we support that. Other Islamic countries act as if nothing has happened.

It is amazing! On the day that Iraq recognized Michel 'Awn, one would think that those Arab countries concerned with apearances at least would say something. What is this? I do not understand. Are they not ashamed before their people? They were all speaking with one accord against Israel. How can they see the triangular sides of Israel, Maronism, and Ba'thism, and remain indifferent? Well, we can say that half of them have gone their own way with that Camp David accords. What about the rest? Were other Arab countries completely oblivious?

The main problem is that infidelity with all its agents—unfortunately, some of its agents are heads of governments in Islamic countries—are arrayed against Islam, not nominal Islam. No one is afraid of nominal Islam; they are afraid of pure Islam. Obviously, because of such a state of affairs they would not allow Islamic unity to take shape in Islamic society. Now the Lebanese want to unite. How can those individuals in Lebanon who are related to those countries unite with those who are pure and faithful to Islam, even though they may want to be Muslims? Such individuals create difficulties.

Consider our losses due to the oil issue. This has happened because we Islamic countries are not united. What we receive in oil revenues is not equal to one-fifth of its real price. So global infidelity is gobbling up our wealth.

Even among practicing individual Muslims one can see that peripheral issues prevent us from being united. These are differences which can be removed. However, one must find a point where the task of eliminating

differences can start. A movement must be initiated; the Muslim 'ulema must take the lead with patience, research, and good faith. At least they must solve the problems which separate the nations first and then devote some thought to the issues which separate the governments. Take the month of Ramadan. We do not start fasting at the beginning of Ramadan together, and we do not celebrate the 'Id al-Fitr festival together. [passage omitted]

Such discord will not do. Therefore, if we intend to talk on behalf of Islam, if we intend to accept the greatness, the personality, the resources, and the Koran, and the way of the life of the prophet and the great men as well as the tradition [sunnah] as an axis, then we must abandon sectarian and ideological differences, differences which are gradually intensifying. We must stress common areas of agreement and keep away from areas that divide us. We must go after that which can save the world of Islam.

A single country on its own finds it difficult even to save itself. Look at how many conspiracies they hatched against us and the Islamic Republic during this period! They plotted several coup attempts which were defeated. They supported many armed uprisings inside the country and created so much agitation, and still they are at it. They initiated this strange war and all the totality of infidelity stood behind Iraqi Ba'th Party simply because they wanted to crush the Islamic Republic.

The United States, which is the object of the ceremonies today, had the lion's share in the mischief, and when at long last they felt the war was going in favor of Islam and the revolution they were forced to come to our coasts with 100 warships to bind our hands. Their ships came to frighten us but when they realized that we did not fear their ships, they then chose some pretexts to bomb our oil platforms in international waterways. The Americans worked with impunity; even the Iraqis would not act like this. To frighten the Iranians and to show us that their wolf-like characteristics know no bounds at this dangerous point, they shot down the Airbus flying from Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubayy, even though most of its passengers were non-Iranian. They participated in the war in all dimensions and with full impunity, with money, propaganda, satellites, and weapons.

Now it has been clarified—the French themselves have written this—that France sent its own pilots with its modern planes to fight us because the Iraqis could not fly those planes. It has now become known that the French crew of the 155 artillery [as heard] was killed behind the frontlines by our fire. It advanced this far to fight us. If infidelity confronts a single Islamic country then it throws all its weight into the fight, as you saw. It was thanks to the resistance of a great nation like Iran which managed to frustrate so much conspiracy. [crowd chants "God is greatest"]

We have a long way to go if we are to realize this main idea. We have succeeded to date in breaking the criminal hands that were stretched toward this base of the Islamic revolution, but there is still the future and here we should try to find companions among the Islamic countries. We should try to eliminate those differences that can be eliminated. We should take certain measures to prevent anyone from taking advantage of our existing circumstances, to prevent them from plundering the wealth of Islamic countries and not letting this wealth reach the poor Muslim people, to prevent them from becoming more arrogant and wealthy and, in contrast, the people of Islamic countries from becoming more deprived with every day that passes.

We should rely on the things we have in common. We should try to reduce internal squabbles and move toward the principal objective. The call to consciousness of the people of the world, our Muslim people, all over the world is a great achievement today. These last 10 years of the Islamic revolution have awakened the people of the world, especially the younger generation all over the world. This was achieved in 10 years, not a whole century.

To maximize the benefits of this awakening, to give spiritual direction to these risen people, to fulfill the rights of Islam, and in order that truth may not be lost among all these distortions which aim to hide truth away in these regional wars, domestic clashes, and religious disputes, we should remember that Muslims all over the world should cooperate; we should work with them and start with what we share in common so that, God willing, we may fulfill the divine promise.

Islamic Iran can be a good model in the present circumstances for revolution. Iran proved that in the hardest and most difficult circumstances in which it was also confronting the most satanic of all the satans of the world, a nation can carry out a revolution, can have staying power, can resist, can even deliver blows at them and can foil the blows aimed at itself. These things have been proven. They have become historical facts, and to benefit from this history we need some plans, policies, and the preservation of a revolutionary spirit. I hope to God that we can do this. [passage omitted]

'Den of Spies' Occupation Celebrated

NC0411125188 [Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0445 GMT on 4 November, the anniversary of the occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, announces that instead of the usual Friday morning feature a "special program on the occasion of the National Day of Campaign Against Global Arrogance will be presented until the afternoon call for prayers. It will include a variety of features providing an insight into the nature of oppression, as well as vignettes of humor and parody." The announcer adds that the program is being presented live and listeners can phone in directly.

The announcer says that today is 13 Aban [4 November], "the day for disavowal and struggle against the most inauspicious political phenomenon of the world." This is followed by a skit about the "day when the den of spies was occupied by the revolutionary offspring so that the dossier of the Arch-Satan's crimes could be presented to the court of the people." Various imaginary situations are presented in the form of parodies to ridicule the United States and its diplomats and policies in other countries.

For example, one feature presents a fictitious letter by a U.S. ambassador that says the United States wants the Third World and other countries to remain embroiled in some sort of major problem while it continues to insist on peace and stability among nations. He continues in the letter that he was reprimanded for not performing his duties because the country where he served did not have any coups, racial or communal discord, and remained peaceful! In another skit, Secretary of Defense Carlucci is said to be visiting the Middle East to "inspect prisons and witness mass executions of Palestinians."

At 0523 GMT the announcer sends greetings to the students who are staging a march in Tehran and "are converging toward Tehran University [venue of Friday prayers]." A feature on presidential candidates and their speeches follows with excerpts of fictional remarks by Dukakis and Bush—in Persian. Dukakis is cited as saying "I am more vicious than Reagan." "But, I do not want any country to remain poor or to be confronted by despotism and hardship. Look at our friends, such as Chile, El Salvador, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Egypt." Bush says "I am as incompetent as my predecessor and I am baring my fangs right now!" "I will bring peace and prosperity to the world with tanks and missiles."

At 0530 GMT a quiz on the United States' greatest crimes over the past few years is addressed to listeners who are asked to phone in. Listeners telephone the studio and speak on the U.S.-imposed war which has disabled so many people and the downing of the Iranian airliner.

A parody of foreign radios is presented at 0545 GMT to "show the contradictory allegations of foreign radios." "This is the Voice of America. You hear us from Washington." Reagan is quoted as saying "we are supporters of peace and we incite wars so the people of the world will learn to value peace more." A reggae piece is presented from the White House with the lyrics: "Human rights are under my feet." "Blacks, reds, browns, and yellows are all equal as none of them has any rights."

A BBC "presentation" follows: "Great Britain's discord-disseminating agency presents its program." "We will present a variety of our falsehoods in the Persian Service." A mock newscast satirizes Saddam's role in the Iran-Iraq war. Radio Moscow's newscast is treated in a similar fashion. Moscow Persian Service is presented daily "on the shortwaves of fear, the frequency of horror, with a strength of 800 kgs." The newscast consists of reports such as: "Soviet leader Karamazov was convicted of smoking American Winston cigarettes and executed." "Afghans say that without the Soviet presence we would never have known the meaning of freedom."

A talk on life in U.S. cities and the extreme poverty and squalor of hundreds of U.S. citizens who sleep in abandoned buildings is carried at 0600 GMT. A commentary on the "belligerent measures of the Arch-Satan in the Third World" focuses on Grenada. This is followed by remarks such as Americans are fond of burgers, Bill Cosby, and Michael Jackson, while the leaders are fond of tanks and missiles.

At 0710 GMT, the announcer says that those dear ones who have gone to the United States from Third World countries and paid for their studies with money from their own countries should return home and participate in the progress of their respective countries. He adds "I address the Iranians who are listening to my voice abroad and whose hearts beat for their country, their Islamic Iran. How wonderful it would be if they would return at this phase of reconstruction in our country, join hands with their compatriots, and not be daunted by any setbacks, so that they can help build the country." This is followed by a feature on U.S. policy in Chile.

The entire program is interspersed with songs with a refrain of "Death to America" and music. The program is still in progress at 0730 GMT.

PRC Deputy Minister Continues Visit to Tehran

LD0511124688 Tehran IRNA in English 1058 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—Deputy Agriculture Minister Hoseyn Tabataba'i today expressed hope Iran could utilise China's experiences in agricultural machinery and factories producing chemical fertilisers.

He made the remark in a meeting with the visiting Chinese deputy minister of machine building and electronics industries Zhao Mingsheng. The two sides also discussed expansion of Tehran-Beijing ties.

Meets Deputy Minister

LD0511151088 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—Chinese deputy minister of machine building, electronics and industries Saturday conferred with deputy minister of plan and budget.

Mahdi Mir-Mo'ezi and Zhao Mingsheng exchanged views on economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

The Chinese official announced Beijing's readiness to provide Iran with electronic equipments.

Reza'i Announces 'Basij Week' Program
LD0511193088 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—Despatch of forces will continue to the fronts to relieve the standing forces so long as U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 is not fully implemented and a lasting peace is not established.

In a televised press conference today Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) warned it is probable the enemy might invade again.

"We are now in a no war-no peace state," said Mohsen Reza'i adding as soon as the peace is established, there is no need to keep forces at the fronts.

The Iraqi regime aims to lure the people away from the scene and invade Islamic Iran once again by impeding the peace talks, the IRGC commander said. Therefore, he added, presence of forces during "Basij Week ceremonies" (Nov. 26- Dec.2) is essential for frustrating the enemy and foil its plots.

The commander adverting to Iraqi mischiefs said "Our enemies are plotting to resume their invasion at the first opportunity even though Iran wants a lasting peace." A real peace is possible only under the umbrella of a great military and defensive power, he stressed.

The Islamic Republic is determined to form "an Islamic Corps", Reza'i said reminding of the leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni's idea to build a "100 million strong army".

"I hereby declare we are ready to accept Muslim youths from all over the world who are determined to enroll as Islam's corps, he said.

Islamic Iran can proudly claim there is no missile in the world that it has not experimented, the IRGC commander said adding Iran's Basij forces have successfully duplicated these missiles.

Referring to industrial self-sufficiency of Basij forces, Reza'i said Iran by relying on these committed forces could soon achieve new heights in technology and armaments.

He said Basij forces have organized and trained people from various of walks life over the past years.

The IRGC commander announced the "Basij Week" programme as follows:
Nov. 26—Day of mobilization of the oppressed and anniversary of formation of 20 million army
Nov. 27—day of organization and training
Nov. 28—day of sacred defence
Nov. 29—day of oppressed and security
Nov. 30—day of committed Muslim women
Dec. 1—day of the oppressed and sacrifice
Dec. 2—day of global Muslim mobilization and ulema

Major programs of the "Basij Week" are: Gathering of commanders of the 20 million army. Air, land and sea maneuvers. Arts, sports, and culture festivals. Inauguration of newly-built resistance basis, and commemoration ceremonies in honor of Basiji martyrs, said the IRGC commander.

Rahmani Outlines Activities
LD0611174588 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—Four million basiji volunteers saw service at the war fronts offering 60,000 martyrs during eight years of sacred defence, disclosed head of the basij unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC) here today.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani interviewed on the Basij Week, to start November 26, described his forces as a military strategy and the "manifestation of an ideology."

The 20-million-strong army, formed on the orders of the leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni, covers people from all walks of life including, 'ulema, students, workers, businessmen, professionals and tribesmen, he added.

The Basij Week will start with a gathering of all-Iran basiji commanders from 24,389 resistance bases as well as IRGC commanders he said, adding that another 500 new bases are to be inaugurated during the week.

As part of celebrations, a sports tourney featuring 15 different events will be held for 500 basiji athletes in the capital, with similar tournaments in other provinces, Hoj. Rahmani said.

On basij activities in schools, he said a total of 1,255,645 students underwent military training over the past two academic years. Training will continue in the next years.

During the week, over 600,000 basijis will stage maneuvers at sea, on land, in forests and on mountains, concluded Rahmani.

Paper Reports 22 Oct Iran Air Hijacking
LD0611085888 London THE OBSERVER in English 6 Nov 88 p 1

["Exclusive" report by Farzad Bazoft and John Merritt]

[Text] A hijacked Iranian jumbo jet with 250 passengers on board was forced to fly to London two weeks ago, but the incident was kept secret.

Inquiries by THE OBSERVER have revealed that flight IR 723, en route to Frankfurt via Vienna, was hijacked by two Iranian dissidents about half an hour before it was due to land at Vienna at 7.10 GMT on Saturday, 22 October.

The demands of the hijackers, who were armed with a handgun and a knife, are unknown, but the pilot notified Vienna Air Traffic Control that he was changing course because of bad weather.

The jet by-passed Frankfurt and flew to London. The hijackers were overpowered by Iranian security "sky marshals" before landing at Heathrow at 8.52 GMT.

The fate of the hijackers is not known. A witness, whose view was partly obscured by several Iranian security men, has claimed that they were removed from the plane at Heathrow in the company of an Iranian security guard, after British security officers boarded the plane. But there is no official record of their removal.

A spokesman for Iran Air in London said three people did leave the plane, but added: "They were British subjects with British passports. Their final destination had been London and they were pleased to arrive early."

The spokesman added: "The plane diverted because of bad weather over Vienna and Frankfurt. It stayed at London for just 45 minutes."

However, other passengers whose final destination was London are known to have been forced to remain on board until the jet headed back for Tehran via Frankfurt and Vienna. Most passengers remained unaware of the reason for the delay, which was blamed on the weather.

The hijackers struck in a front section of the plane and the incident was witnessed only by a few aircrew members and a handful of passengers, including a robed Iranian clergyman.

But in a graphic account one of the witnesses, now in Germany, said: "Two men in their thirties came through to our section and pulled the curtain. They were casually dressed with jackets and one had a moustache. He produced a silver-coloured gun and the other man had a knife.

"The clergyman was very distressed because he thought they would victimise him, but the knifeman grabbed a steward called Naseri and held him at knifepoint. The other man threatened another Iran Air official in uniform and made him talk to the captain on the internal phone.

"The pilot then informed passengers that we could not land at Vienna due to bad weather and all passengers would disembark at Frankfurt.

"Suddenly a security guard with a handgun came down the staircase and grabbed the knifeman from behind and clubbed him with his pistol butt on the back of his neck. Other guards followed and in the panic the gunman was overpowered and they started beating the hijackers. I thought they were going to die. Their hands were fixed behind their backs with their faces on the floor and then they were dragged away and kept until we landed at London."

The witness, who has been questioned extensively by THE OBSERVER in front of four independent witnesses, says the hijackers were last seen after arrival in London, together with "an Iranian from upstairs, who was dressed in a grey suit and tie".

The witness said: "Three people in uniform and a man in a suit boarded from the front of the plane. The Iranian security men took details from our passports and warned us not to say anything about the incident."

An Iran Air employee in Tehran confirmed: "A hijack incident did take place, but we have not been given details and there is a blackout on information."

British authorities have no record of the incident. The aviation inspectorate of the Department of Transport, overseeing Heathrow security, says it was not notified, nor was the Civil Aviation Authority, Scotland Yard or airport police.

A spokesman for Heathrow Air Traffic Control confirmed the arrival, refuelling and departure of the plane, but added: "No specific reason would have to be given. Planes are diverted all the time. If the pilot says it's bad weather it is accepted."

Air traffic control records in Vienna show that although there was low visibility and fog at the time, other international flights were not diverted. The decision was taken by the Iran Air pilot himself and the next destination was given as Frankfurt.

As far as Vienna controllers are aware, the plane went to and returned from Frankfurt with no deviation to London. Frankfurt control tower did not experience poor weather conditions.

When this was put to an Iran Air official called Mr Heydari, in Vienna, he said: "The weather was bad in Frankfurt as well, very bad. Maybe the air traffic controller drinks some alcohol and tells you something wrong.

"I was on the flight myself and there was no trouble. We had three British passengers on board, and they left the plane at Heathrow. It took on fuel and after one hour left London."

An Iran Air spokesman in Frankfurt said: "The plane was diverted over Austria due to bad weather. The closest airport at the time was London. Another airport was not available."

Maldives

Further on Coup Attempt Against President

Ex-President Denies Role

BK0511003888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0003 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Singapore, Nov 5 (AFP)—Former Maldives President Ibrahim Nasir has denied any involvement in the attempted coup in the Maldives, THE STRAITS TIMES reported Saturday.

"I categorically deny, and reject any suggestion, that I was at any time or in any way involved in the reported coup attempt," he was quoted as saying.

Mr. Nasir's denial came in a statement to the daily through his Singapore lawyers. It threatened legal action against anyone who implicated him, directly or indirectly.

THE STRAITS TIMES also quoted an unnamed senior official of the Maldives Government trade office here as saying: "Our government has not implicated Mr. Ibrahim in the latest incident in any way.

"We believe there was a man called Nasir involved but they (the media) mistakenly linked it to him (Mr. Nasir)," the official reportedly said.

A group of between 150 to 250 mercenaries believed to be Sri Lankan Tamils attempted to overthrow the Maldives Government on Thursday. The coup bid was quashed by the arrival of Indian paratroopers sent in at Male's request.

Mr. Nasir, now a permanent resident of Singapore, and his lawyers could not immediately be reached for confirmation. He was accused by the Maldives Government of misappropriating state funds between 1957 and 1978, when he resigned the Presidency abruptly and left the country.

Businessman, Tamil Group Blamed

BK0611090488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0840 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Male, Nov 6 (AFP)—Maldivian businessman Abdullah Lutifi was in the forefront of a failed coup attempt by armed Sri Lankan Tamil mercenaries in the Maldives, Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel said Sunday [6 November].

Mr. Lutifi "was seen taking an active part and was in overall charge," Mr. Jameel told a press conference here, adding that the Maldives Government had confirmed that the Sri Lankan Tamil militant group, PLOTE (People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam), was also involved in Thursday's takeover bid.

But Mr. Jameel said he believed that Mr. Lutifi did not have the financial means to launch the coup attempt on his own, adding that the businessman had "a lot of problems in his business with creditors."

He said the motive for the coup could have been "financial, for a strategic (purpose) by some external group, or merely terroristic adventurism," and added that the government was still investigating.

The coup attempt, launched before dawn Thursday by heavily armed mercenaries landing from the sea, failed when India rushed 1,600 paratroopers to the island of Male late the same night forcing the attackers to flee in boats.

Tamil Group Denies Role

BK0611092688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0914 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Nov 6 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Tamil militant group Sunday [6 November] denied charges that it was involved in Thursday's coup bid against Maldives President Maumoom Abdul Gayoom.

"We deny this. We have no relation with any of those who took part in the coup attempt," a spokesman for the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOT) told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. He did not elaborate.

(Maldives Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel told reporters in Male earlier Sunday that the PLOTE was involved in the failed takeover bid which the minister said was led by a Maldives businessman.) [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Gives Details

BK0611094088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0925 GMT 6 Nov 88

[By Douglas Curran]

[Excerpts] Male, Nov 6 (AFP)—Maldivian businesman Abdullah Lutifi was in the forefront of a failed coup attempt by armed Sri Lankan Tamil mercenaries in the Maldives, Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel said Sunday [6 November]. Mr. Lutifi "was seen taking an active part and was in overall charge," Mr. Jameel told a press conference here. [passage omitted]

He said legal cases were pending against Mr. Lutifi and for this reason he had had to seek special government permission to travel to Sri Lanka, ostensibly for medical reasons. The foreign minister added that he believed the businessman had probably used his visits there to raise the mercenary force.

Mr. Jameel added that the Maldives Government had confirmed that the Sri Lankan Tamil militant group, PLOTE (People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam), was involved in Thursday's takeover bid. [passage omitted]

Mr. Jameel said the Indian troops had started a gradual withdrawal from the Maldives now that "the most dangerous and crucial period is over" but added that the timing of a total pull out would depend on developments. "We cannot say at this stage whether we ourselves can take care of our security from any future dangers," he said.

The Maldives, with a population of 200,000, has no standing army and relies for security on the 1,200-member paramilitary national security service. "Both in the (British) Commonwealth and in SAARC (the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) systems are being worked out to have a composite security to deal with threats to smaller nations," Mr. Jameel said without elaborating. SAARC groups the Maldives with India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Mr. Jameel denied reports by local residents that sailors aboard an Omani warship on a port call here had secured Male's Hululu International Airport before the arrival of Indian troops. "They (the Omanis) were on a training ship here, they are all young and unarmed," he said.

Mr. Jameel said that U.S. forces based in the British Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia had been "supportive but their units did not take an active part" in the Indian military action to put down the coup.

Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom was in constant touch with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Mr. Jameel said. Asked how many Maldivian locals had been involved in supporting the coup attempt, Mr. Jameel replied "a handful."

"It was a nightmare for us, we never expected this kind of event," he said, adding that his government was still trying to reconstruct the events of the past few days.

Hijacked Ship Being Returned

BK0611144788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] The Maldivian president, Mr Gayoom, said the cargo ship hijacked by the mercenaries is being brought back to Male tugged by an Indian naval ship. Speaking to newsmen in Male this afternoon, he said the captured mercenaries would be tried according to Maldivian laws. Mr Gayoom said two more boats in which some other mercenaries had escaped on Friday [4 November] morning were still at large.

The president said Thursday's coup attempt was foiled because of prompt action taken by the Indian troops and thanked India for timely help. He said mopping-up operations are on to apprehend mercenaries possibly still in hiding. He said his government is in full control of the situation. Indian Airlines resumed its services to Male today. This service remained suspended since Thursday.

Indian Spokesman Details Rescue

BK0611162788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The cargo ship the "Progress Light" carrying the mercenaries involved in the abortive coup in Maldives and hostages has been forced to surrender by the special Marine commandos of the Indian Navy. The surrender of the mercenaries was secured at 0925 this morning [0355 GMT] without resistance after "INS [Indian Naval Ship] Godavari" had fired warning shots and carried out intensive psychological pressure on them. According to a spokesman in New Delhi today, 20 hostages including the Maldivian transport minister, Mr Ahmed Mujuthaba, and his wife have been rescued. [passage omitted]

Giving details of the operation, the spokesman said the decision to halt the crippled vessel was taken only after both the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, and the Maldivian president, Mr M.A. Gayoom, asked India to prevent the ship from reaching Colombo. The mercenaries had earlier told the Maldivian negotiating team that they would talk only at Colombo in international presence including the high commissioners of India and Britain in Sri Lanka.

Though the mercenaries initially insisted on taking the cargo ship to Colombo around midnight last night, the Maldivian negotiating team and the commander of "INS Godavari" told them that their demands were unacceptable. They were also told that the ship can be taken to India and if they fail to surrender force will be used and they would be responsible for the loss of life. Around 0100 "INS Godavari" maneuvered close to "Progress Light" and fired some warning shots. "INS Godavari" opened up its guns and warned the ship again to alter its course. Helicopter from "INS Godavari" buzzed the ship and Alize aircraft fired rockets to mount pressure.

Giving details of the operation for the first time, the spokesman said following the appeal for assistance from the Maldivian president, the government gave a go ahead signal to armed forces around 1300 on Thursday [0730 GMT 3 November]. The whole operation has been successful because of the speed with which the Indian Air Force moved its planes to carry the troops to the troubled island. The spokesman said this was done by the Air Force despite its commitment to provide logistic support to the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] in the north-eastern Sri Lanka and its commitment in the north and the eastern part of the country.

Hostages Admitted to Hospital

BK0711032088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Fifteen injured Maldivians, including the transport minister, Mr Ahmed Mujuthaba, and his wife, who were rescued from the fleeing mercenaries in a cargo ship and brought to Trivandrum yesterday, have been admitted to the military hospital. The injured were brought in two groups and all of them are reported to have gunshot wounds. The condition of four of them is said to be serious. The minister, who was wounded in both the legs, is out of danger. His wife had received pellet injuries, but not of a serious nature.

The cargo ship, carrying the mercenaries involved in the abortive coup and their hostages, was forced to surrender by the special Marine commandos of the Indian Navy. Twenty hostages were rescued, four were killed, and three are missing. Forty-six mercenaries have been captured and are being taken to Male.

The Maldivian president, Mr Gayoom, has said that the captured mercenaries will be tried according to Maldivian laws.

The commando assault on the cargo vessel came after Indian warships and aircraft had shadowed it for some time after it fled from Male. The decision to order the commandos to board the ship from helicopters was taken only after radio negotiations with the mercenaries broke down. The Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, and the Maldivian president, Mr Gayoom, also asked India to prevent the ship from reaching Colombo.

Speaking to newsmen, Mr Gayoom said that two more boats in which some other mercenaries have escaped on Friday morning were still at large. A PTI report from Male, however, says one cargo ship believed to be carrying a second group of mercenaries was spotted by the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard. It was heading toward south. The ship is yet to be intercepted.

Situation 'Back to Normal'

BK0711125988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Reports from the Maldives capital Male say that the situation in the country after the attempted coup on Thursday [3 November] is back to normal. Shops are reported to be open and people are moving about freely. The combing operations by the Indian forces in cooperation with the National Security Service [NSS] of the Maldives are continuing. The NSS is reportedly interrogating about 100 people

According to an agency report preparations are under way to install President Gayoom for his third presidential term on Friday [11 November].

An official spokesman said in New Delhi that the mercenaries are being interrogated on board the naval ships.

Pakistan

Yaqub Khan on Soviet Statement on Afghanistan

BK0511165088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Pakistan has expressed its concern and disappointment over the Soviet Union's decision to suspend further pullout of its troops from Afghanistan. In a statement in Islamabad today, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan referred to yesterday's statement of the Soviet Foreign Office that troop withdrawal in Afghanistan depended upon Soviet goodwill. He said this statement creates doubts and suspicions over the pledges made by the Soviet Union under the Geneva accord. He said under the Geneva accord, the Soviet Union is bound to pull out its troops by 15 February next year.

The foreign minister said the action of suspending the withdrawal of the Soviet forces is especially disappointing on the grounds that the United Nations General Assembly has taken a significant step by passing an unanimous resolution on Afghanistan on 3 November. He said the significant point of this resolution, which was adopted as a result of the successful cooperation between the Soviet Union and Pakistan, is that it created expectations about the completion of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan as scheduled. Therefore, it was hoped that the passing of the unanimous resolution would help create a conducive atmosphere for a comprehensive settlement of the Afghanistan issue.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan also referred to other recent actions of the Soviet Union in introducing MiG-27 and SU-24 aircraft, installing SS1 and Scud missiles, and bombing civilian populations with Soviet planes from high altitudes, including some assaults launched from the Soviet Union. All these activities are not consistent with the objective for a speedy and comprehensive settlement of the problem.

He also referred to yesterday's statement of the Soviet deputy foreign minister, saying that more Soviet forces are being sent in place of the military units withdrawn from Afghanistan. He said all these things are against the true spirit of the Geneva accord and do not conform to the point that the Soviet forces will initiate action only when it is necessary to defend the withdrawing troops.

The foreign minister reiterated Pakistan's stand that the setting up of a representative and acceptable broad-based interim administration in the place of the present Kabul regime can only be the real basis for a comprehensive settlement to the Afghanistan issue. In this connection, he referred to the efforts of the Afghan mujahidin's Islamic solidarity meeting on 31 October

aimed at setting up a representative and independent assembly of the country so as to form an interim government. He described it as a positive and encouraging step.

The foreign minister reiterated Pakistan's expectation that instead of supporting a weak and unacceptable administration, the Soviet Union will respond to the realities of the situation inside Afghanistan and the will of the Afghan people. He said this is the only way to restore peace by which millions of Afghan refugees will be able to safely return to their homes with dignity and honor and so the programs of immediate need on rehabilitation and reconstruction will be implemented in Afghanistan.

Kabul Protest on Air Violations Rejected

BK0611041088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the Kabul regime's protest which alleged that a Pakistani jet fighter plane entered into Afghanistan's airspace and flew over Gorgan and Torkham for a minute and returned.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday and was told that the allegation made by Afghanistan was investigated and found baseless. He was asked to tell the Kabul regime to refrain from making such false allegations.

National Day Message Sent to Gorbachev

BK0711040488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has sent a congratulatory message to the chairman of the Soviet Presidium, Mikhail Gorbachev, on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the Great October Revolution today.

In his message to Gorbachev, the president expressed his strong belief that the promotion of friendly relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union are consistent with the aspirations and to the benefit of the people of the two countries. This will help in promoting peace and stability in the region. The president expressed the hope that the successes achieved as a result of bilateral efforts toward this objective will increase in the days to come.

Delhi Reports Firing on Begum Bhutto Procession

BK0511090188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] In Pakistan, unidentified gunmen opened fire on a procession at Lahore yesterday. It was led by Begum Nusrat Bhutto. A government spokesman said that Begum Bhutto was unhurt. No one has claimed responsibility.

Sri Lanka

Troops Kill 12, Injure 25 in Prison Mutiny

BK0711105088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1032 GMT 7 Nov 88

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Nov 7 (AFP)—Army commandos fired at mutinous prisoners at a maximum security jail here Monday killing at least 12, police said. Some 2,000 prisoners demanding the government's resignation set fire to three buildings inside the Welikade prison destroying important documents, cells and stores, a police spokesman at the scene said.

More than 25 inmates were wounded including former naval rating Rohana de Silva, serving a six-year term for attacking Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi with a rifle butt during his visit to Colombo in July 1987, police said. An Air Force helicopter teargassed prisoners on trees and roof tops after they broke out of their cells and began stoning guards and torching buildings, damaging the telephone exchange, the spokesman said. Dozens of firemen and three fire engines were deployed to battle the flames, but initially they had problems getting into the buildings as prisoners stoned them. [passage omitted]

In another development, Mr Jayewardene said in a statement Monday that he would consider an opposition demand to dissolve parliament if JVP supremo Rohana Wijeweera agreed to serve in a proposed interim cabinet. There was no immediate response from the JVP.

A military spokesman here said there were no reports of strike-related violence anywhere Monday, apart from the incident at Welikade. Officials said commandos and police ringed the sprawling Welikade prison complex and sealed off roads leading to it in a bid to prevent prisoners escaping, a prison official said. He said troops took control of the prison after clashing with mutinious prisoners for nearly three hours. The rebels had damaged all cells, broken gates and destroyed food supplies.

The prisoners, who are mainly petty criminals, have been refusing work in the past four days demanding the immediate dissolution of parliament, better food and living quarters, the official said. He said prisoners in two other jails in Negombo and Bogambara had gone on strike expressing solidarity with the Welikade inmates.

The government Sunday accused "subversive elements" of planning "a wave of violence and mayhem" in the days to come and warned that failure to oppose the move would "be harmful to all." A government statement dubbed the strike sponsors as "fascist forces."

People Warned of 'Subversive Elements'
BK0611101988 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0940 GMT 6 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 6 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)— The government in a communique issued today warned that subversive elements are planning a period of violence and mayhem in the days ahead. Their objective is to disrupt the day to day life of the community, cause loss to ordinary people and further their programme of preventing the presidential and parliamentary elections. They want to deprive the people of the right to vote and capture state power by force.

The continued cooperation of the people is required. The democratic rights of the people are being threatened directly. Failure to stand up to this fascist threat will be harmful to all.

The security forces have been instructed to apply the laws strictly against all those involved in disruption and incitement.

'Militant-Sponsored' General Strike Begins
BK0711072988 Hong Kong AFP in English 0703 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Colombo, Nov 7 (AFP)—A militant-sponsored three-day general strike to demand the resignation of the Sri Lankan Government began Monday with varied reactions across the island. Most shops, schools and offices were open in Colombo and traffic on the streets seemed normal, though with fewer buses, but life was seriously affected in other parts of the country, residents and officials said. The protest was called by the militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), which has been blamed for more than 500 deaths over the past 15 months. "Is there a strike here?" asked a military spokesman, adding: "things appear normal to me."

Residents said most shops and department stores, which had witnessed widespread panic buying throughout Sunday in anticipation of the work stoppage, were open and doing normal business. Some government offices were closed shortly after reopening, partly due to poor attendance arising out of fewer government and privately-operated buses on the roads of the capital and its suburbs.

In Colombo, some 3,000 port workers staged a protest march Monday, shouting slogans against President Junius Jayewardene and his 11-year-old government. Hundreds of bank employees also picketed their offices. Life was seriously disrupted in most of southern, central and western Sri Lanka, populated by the majority Sinhalese community which is the JVP's support base, reports said. Buses were off the roads and shops and offices shut in these areas.

Monday's strike began shortly after a five-hour, island-wide night curfew imposed Sunday ended. The government Sunday accused "subversive elements" of planning "a wave of violence and mayhem" in the days to come and warned that failure to oppose the move would "be harmful to all". A government statement dubbed the strike sponsors "fascist forces".

Delhi Reports Jayewardene-Bandaranaike Meeting
BK0611031488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr J.R. Jayewardene, has offered to consider the request for the dissolution of Parliament if the JVP leader, Mr Rohana Wijeweera, agrees to serve in the proposed interim cabinet to be formed after such a dissolution. The request for the dissolution was made by the Sri Lanka Freedom Party leader, Mrs Bandaranaike, when she met the president in Colombo yesterday.

A government communique said the meeting followed the initiative taken by the top Buddhist leadership of the country to defuse the present situation in the country. The two leaders discussed the 10-point demand put forward by the seven-party opposition delegation who had already met Mr Jayewardene on the issue on three earlier occasions.

Meanwhile, government post offices have resumed operations at Trincomalee after a gap of 17 days. The full-fledged working of all post offices in the sector will begin from Monday.

The election campaign in Trincomalee District by various political parties has picked up momentum. A report from the Eastern Province says that the PKF [peacekeeping force] has successfully restored the telephone links in Batticaloa and Eravur towns.